

A HISTORY

of

Greene and Vicinity

1845 - 1929

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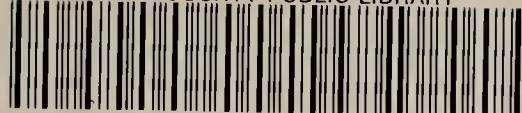
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SQUIRE G. WOOD

A HISTORY  
of  
Greene and Vicinity

1845 - 1929

*By*  
SQUIRE G. WOOD



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## *Foreword*

Squire G. Wood often related to me facts about the early days of Greene, which I found most interesting and felt should be put in writing. As a result of my interest he wrote the following history.

This book is published on the Tercentenary Anniversary of Rhode Island as a testimonial to its author, Squire G. Wood, who was one of Greene's best informed and most loyal citizens.

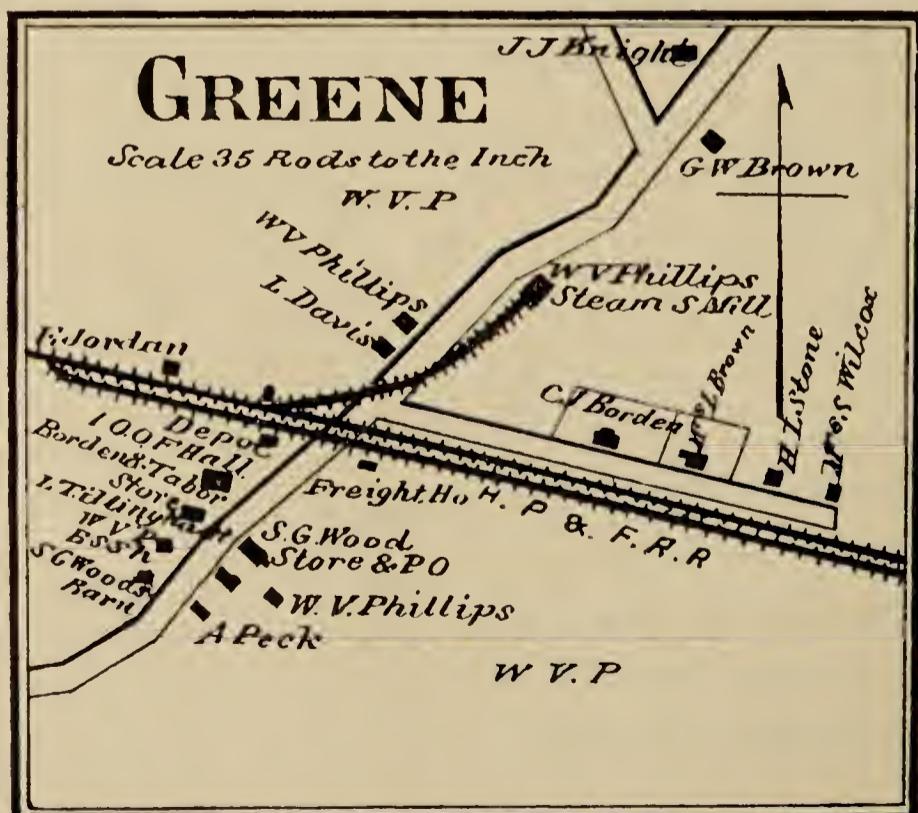
MITTIE ARNOLD

June, 1936



# CONTENTS

	Page
THE RAILROAD . . . . .	7
HOMES . . . . .	11
STORES . . . . .	17
HIGHWAYS . . . . .	19
SCHOOLS . . . . .	21
CHURCHES . . . . .	24
PHYSICIANS . . . . .	27
POST OFFICE AND RURAL DELIVERY . . . . .	28
CAMP MEETING . . . . .	31
INDUSTRIES . . . . .	33
DISASTERS . . . . .	37
WAR VETERANS . . . . .	38
POLITICS . . . . .	41
REPUBLICAN CLUB . . . . .	42
AMUSEMENTS . . . . .	43
LIBRARY . . . . .	44
SECRET SOCIETY . . . . .	46
FIDELITY GRANGE No. 20 . . . . .	47
MECHANICS . . . . .	48
EASTERN STAR . . . . .	50
ARTHUR B. DEXTER, REPRESENTATIVE . . . . .	51
ADELBERT K. GREENE, SENATOR . . . . .	52
WILLIAM R. POTTER, REPRESENTATIVE . . . . .	53
JOHN Q. KETTLE, REPRESENTATIVE . . . . .	54
EDWARD EVERETT ARNOLD . . . . .	54
AMBROSE H. NICHOLAS, SENATOR . . . . .	56
RICE CITY CHURCH . . . . .	57
CRANBERRY BOG . . . . .	58
FREEMASONRY . . . . .	61
IONIC LODGE No. 28 OF F. A. A. M. . . . .	61
HOPKINS HOLLOW CEMETERY . . . . .	66
HISTORY OF "SOUTH FARM" . . . . .	71
THE NICHOLS FAMILY TREE . . . . .	72
THE WOOD FAMILY TREE . . . . .	73
THE Woods-NICHOLS FAMILY . . . . .	75



# History of Greene and Vicinity

By SQUIRE G. WOOD



## THE RAILROAD

If we were to go back to 1845, the place where the village of Greene now stands we would find to be a little-used cart path through what was then a swamp, and the road which led from what was then known as Rider's Corner to Bowen's Hill one not much traveled at that time. Such was the site which was to become later a very flourishing village in the extreme west end of Coventry.

The question may be asked, how Greene came to be on the map, and there can be only one answer,—the new way of travel. The Steam Railroad which had its beginning in the Eastern States in 1846 and in 1847 reached Providence, one of the two capitals of Rhode Island.

In 1850 there began talk of a new railroad to connect Providence and Hartford by way of Plainfield and Willimantic, and in 1852 the first survey was made, followed by another survey in the next year when the final location was made and contracts let for the building of the Providence and Plainfield Railroad, which was afterward to become the Providence, Hartford and Fiskeville Railroad. Early in 1854 a stopping place was made where Greene now stands, and the station was called Greene, by the officials of the Railroad Company, in honor of General Nathanael Greene of Revolutionary fame, and a native of Rhode Island.

Greene is located two and a half miles east of the Connecticut State line, and about the same distance from Summit, the next station east on the railroad. Its eastern and northern boundaries lie on the Buckshorn River, the western boundary at Jordan's Cut, so called, and the southern boundary near the schoolhouse now standing on the road to Hopkins Hollow.

The railroad located its road bed on land owned by Esek Jordan on the north side of the track and by Olney Briggs on the south side of the track. These two farmers were the only owners at that

time of the land where Greene now stands, and their permission was bought for the laying of the railroad and the building of the station.

The steam power of the locomotives was gained from wood and it was necessary for the company to have its supplies of wood for engine fuel somewhat near together. Greene was chosen as one of the stations for supplying the fuel needed to take the trains east to Washington and west to Plainfield.

In the summer of 1854 a small station was built on the south side of the track, and on October 2, 1854, the first train for the use of the public was run from Providence to Willimantic. Soon after a regular schedule of trains, including freight, was put into effect, all trains stopping at Greene.

The first station agent was the late Squire G. Wood, who came from Narrowlane in the morning and returned home after the last train had gone by at night. After a few months he was followed by Daniel Tillinghast of West Greenwich, who moved into the small station. Thus he and his family became the first residents of Greene. He stayed only about a year. In 1856 a new station was built, which is in use at the present time. The new station was also located on the south side of the railroad, and was two stories high, with a tenement in the second story for the use of the station agent and his family. The first station was moved to its present location, and became the home of the new baggage master and general helper around the station. Thomas Holihan served Greene for several years in that capacity, and was a very faithful man, doing his work well, and well liked by all who knew him.

The first station agent to occupy the new station was David E. Burnap from Connecticut, who stayed several years and then went to Andover, Connecticut,—returning to Greene later for a few years more.

Among the early agents was Horatio N. Reynolds from Foster, who stayed eight years in the best part of the history of Greene when it was a very prosperous and busy village.

Soon after Mr. Burnap's first period of work the Greene Station was made a telegraph station, and one of the old style Tape machines, as they were called, was installed, and an operator employed,—as station agents of that day were not required, as

they are now, to be operators. The messages over the telegraph were printed in the Morse code on the tape as it passed over the wheel, and were copied in long hand by the operator who gave the messages and orders to those concerned. A few years later the new method of receiving the message by sound was invented and this is in use at the present time. Miss Emma Davis, now Mrs. Emma Bates, was the first operator at the Greene Station,—and until recent years the only lady to fill that position there. Mr. Reynolds has been followed by a long list of station agents, who have worked as station agents and operators, a new ruling of the Railroad Company making it compulsory for all station agents to be operators of the telegraph. The present station agent and operator, William R. Potter, has filled the position faithfully for the past twenty-seven years.

Early in the eighties of the last century the railroad station was moved from the south side of the railroad to its present site on the north side of the railroad near the east side of the crossing.

Soon after the station was built a freight house was erected,—and also a building called the acid house, for the storage of barrels of acid from the works of Bela P. Clapp of Pawtucket, located in West Greenwich and Hopkins Hollow. The making of acid from wood for many years was quite an industry in West Greenwich and elsewhere, and added considerably to the freight receipts at Greene. The acid house was kept up until a few years ago, when the making of acid from wood was discontinued, something better having been found to take its place.

Early also in the history of the station at Greene began the sale of milk to Providence by farmers within a radius of three or four miles, and very early a milk platform was built for the use of the milkmen, and a milk car added to the Plainfield train to Providence. This milk car ran continuously on the same train for sixty years or more, used by nearly all the farmers in the vicinity. A year or two ago the trains were taken off, and the milk, now sold by only a few of the farmers, is sent to Providence by truck.

The Greene station being a wooding up station, so called, a great opportunity for the sale of all kinds of wood for the use of the railroad was given the farmers for several miles around, and as a consequence a large number of cords of wood was stored on

the company grounds to be used in the making of steam to carry the passenger and freight trains.

Early in 1854 a horse sawing machine was installed at Greene Station to saw the four-foot lengths of wood into two, to fit into the fire box, and for more convenient handling by the fireman. The sawing machine was owned by Samuel Arnold of Quidnick who had several machines at the different stations where wood was stored for use by the Railroad Company. He kept two horses at Greene, one to be used in the forenoon and the other in the afternoon. This was continued until early in the seventies when coal came into use, and soon after all engines were altered and the use of wood discontinued, thus stopping a great sale of wood by the farmers who had their money invested in horses and wagons, and some of whom had many cords of wood cut and nowhere to sell it.

Soon after the first passenger train went through Greene on October 2, 1854, a time table went into effect which gave Greene good facilities for traveling both east and west. The first train for Providence left Greene for many years at 7:25 in the morning six days a week. This was the milk train, with W. J. Cross, of Plainfield, Connecticut, as conductor. At 9:25 a train from Hartford for Providence stopped at Greene. Another from Hartford at 11:30 A.M. also stopped at Greene. In the afternoon a train from Plainfield stopped at 1:30,—also one at 5 o'clock from Hartford which carried mail and was due in Providence at 6 o'clock. Going west Hartford trains left Greene at 8 o'clock and at 10 o'clock. A train for Plainfield stopped at 12:30 P.M. Hartford trains stopped at 2:30 and 5:30 P.M., and the last train for Plainfield at 6:30 P.M.

In the early part of the seventies the road changed hands, becoming the New York and New England, and the time table for Greene was completely changed. The through train to Hartford was taken off and this road was made a division ending at Willimantic. The 7:25 milk train was still kept. A train from Plainfield stopped at Greene at 9:24 A.M. A through train from Willimantic stopped at 11:30 A.M., and trains from Willimantic stopped at 4:50 and 8:22 P.M. Going west trains left Greene for Plainfield at 8:10 A.M., for Willimantic at 10 A.M. and 1:00 P.M., for Plainfield at 3:45 P.M., and for Willimantic at 5:30 and 8:22 P.M.

So it is seen that traveling facilities were good from the early days of Greene up to 1921 when a reduction of trains began which now leaves Greene with only one passenger train a day on the steam road, as it is now called, from Greene to Providence and return. The motive power has been changed from steam to gasoline, and in place of a train one car is used to transport passengers from Greene to Providence and from Greene to Plainfield. During these years several express trains have been run over this road which did not stop at Greene. Two of these in the early days ran express from Hartford to Providence and from Providence to Hartford, passing Greene about 1 o'clock P.M. During the summer of 1876 the Centennial Express carried passengers to the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia. This train stopped at any station which had passengers for the Exposition. Changes in transportation have affected Greene, as other places, as times and motive power have changed. During the seventy-four years of the history of Greene no change has been greater than that in the motive power of transportation, originally steam and now gasoline. What will come next is hard to foretell.

### GREENE AND ITS HOMES

In the starting of any new village or town it is necessary for the new residents to build permanent homes, for these are to make up the permanent life of the village or town. In this history of Greene we must now turn our attention to those who, by building homes, made of Greene the village it came to be in after years.

The late Squire G. Wood came from his farm three miles south of Greene, and in 1856 bought the first building lot from Olney Briggs and in 1857 proceeded to build the first home in the new village of Greene. This first home was a house some 40 x 20 feet, a story and a half high, with an ell attached on the east end, with a basement suitable for store purposes, and a cellar the entire length of the house and ell. The house was finished in 1858 and occupied by its owner and family until 1861 when the family moved back to the farm, and the house at Greene was occupied by Gustavus Wilbur and his wife, son-in-law and daughter of S. G. Wood. They occupied the house until August, 1865, when, upon

the death of the wife, Huldah Wilbur, the family of the owner returned. Squire G. Wood died there in August, 1887. His widow and her daughter lived there until 1897, when the house was sold to Charles E. Capwell. Mr. Capwell lived there for some time, and also rented the house for some years to Burrill Wood from Foster, and to Daniel Billington. Later it was sold to its present owner and occupant, Sanford T. Briggs.

The second home to be established was on the lot adjoining Mr. Wood's lot on the south. This was erected by Whipple V. Phillips, who came from the town of Foster, and who, it will be seen later, had much to do with the building up of Greene as a village. He built a very comfortable home, with a large barn and carriage house, and made other improvements. Mr. Phillips occupied this house until about 1880, when he removed to Providence where he resided until his death some years ago. Mr. Phillips' house at Greene was bought by Daniel Tillinghast, who lived there until his death, when it was bought by the present occupant, Albert W. Cleveland.

The next and for many years the last house on the east side of the road was built and occupied by Alexander Peck and wife, who came to Greene in the early sixties. Mr. Peck, a carpenter, helped to build several of the houses now making up the village of Greene.

For many years no home was built on the west side of the road south of the railroad, this side being occupied by a storehouse for grain, a blacksmith shop and a barn owned by S. G. Wood. In 1882 or 1883 the building used as a grain storehouse was altered into a house and an ell was added and thus was made the home of Curnel S. Brown who still lives at an advanced age and continues to make this his home.

We now go north of the railroad on the main road through the village, for the main part of the village and also its business have been on this side of the railroad.

The first house on the west side of the road was built by W. V. Phillips in the year 1860, and soon after was sold to Lyman Davis who came from New York State in 1858 and lived for a short time at Hopkins Hollow, then moved to Greene where he lived until his death in 1885, leaving a widow, Mrs. Serena Davis, and

two sons, William and Leroy, and a daughter, Emma. William Davis has been connected with many of the mill firms as an engineer and boiler inspector. Leroy Davis for more than fifty years was trainman and conductor on the Norwich and Worcester division of the New Haven Railroad. Mrs. Emma Davis Bates was the first telegraph operator at Greene. The house has always remained in the Davis family and is now occupied by William Davis and family.

Next in order on the same side was a house built by Oliver Lewis and occupied by him until his death in 1887. It was afterward owned by Amos Jordan and wife, who lived there for many years until the house was destroyed by fire. It was never rebuilt.

The next home in our history of old homes was located a little west of the main road to Bowen's Hill on the new road to Rice City. This was a small house built and owned by Jerry Knight who worked as a blacksmith in the early days of Greene. He had quite a large family, lived at Greene for several years, and then moved away. The next occupant of his house was Horace Wood, son of David Wood of Rice City. Horace Wood was noted as a very fine violin player. Later the house was owned and occupied by T. Jerome Harrington, or Deacon Harrington, as he was better known, for many years a deacon in Rice City Church. This was his home until his death in the early nineties. After his death the home was owned by his widow, Hitty Potter Harrington, who lived several years after her husband's decease. At her death it became the property of her brother, Bates M. Potter, and after his death was sold to Stephen E. Brown, who rebuilt it, making a large well appointed home which is still kept up. Mr. Brown lived here several years and then moved to the south part of the State, where he now lives. Several years ago Eben A. Briggs purchased this place from Mr. Brown and has since made it his home. He has one son, Ernest, who is an employe of a bank in Providence.

The next old home whose history we record is located on the west side of the road leading to Bowen's Hill,—the land being located on the road to Rice City as well as on the Bowen's Hill road. This home was built by Deacon Otis Foster, as he was known everywhere, early in the history of the village, and he

came here and lived until his death. Later the place was owned by Daniel Freeman, who had been a railroad employe for many years. Mr. Freeman was one of the best men Greene has ever had, taking an active interest in everything that would benefit the community. He was much missed when death took him. He left a wife but no children. The place has been owned for many years by George W. Chace of Providence, who still lives there. He now has a small planing mill and workshop to aid him in his trade of carpenter.

The next home is one built early in the nineties by the late Herbert A. Stone and sold to Bates M. Potter, who came from North Sterling, with his good wife. Here they lived during their declining days, and went to their eternal home within a few years of each other. Bates M. Potter and his wife were both active Christians and both believed in the spirit of helpfulness to all with whom they came in contact. Both are buried in the cemetery at Hopkins Hollow. The home is now occupied by Everett Hopkins, and his wife Ethel M., who is a granddaughter of the former owner, Bates M. Potter.

Across the Buckshorn River, close to the river, is one of the oldest of the homes built in the early days of Greene, for Lyman Scott, who for more than forty years made this his home. He had two sons and three daughters. One son, George W., and one daughter, Jane, are still living in the old home.

We now return to the east side of the Bowen's Hill road leading north from the village. In the early days there were no homes between the railroad and the small brook just south of the Brown place, so called. On the site of the old mill, whose history will be written later, in the early nineties was built a new home by the late William A. Stone, who came from Washington, R. I., and who made this his home for several years. He then sold the house to Charles M. Howland, who was for several years the mail driver on what is known as the north route. Mr. Howland sold the house to Mrs. John Tanner, who now owns and rents it.

The next home on the right was built for Frank A. Brown, son of John A. Brown of West Greenwich, who lived there until his death several years later. The home is now owned by Charles H. Arnold, storekeeper at Greene.

Across the small brook we come to one of the first homes to be established in Greene. This house was built by, and for, George T. Brown, one of the early settlers. He had quite a large family,—most of them now gone, never to return. Mr. Brown and his family were in Greene during the booming days of the village. They afterward moved to the city of Providence. In 1885 Dr. C. L. Ormsbee came to Greene, and used this house as his home and office for many years. It is now owned by William H. Brown, and for several years Fred W. Arnold has made it his home.

The next home on the right also was built by the late Herbert Stone and soon after was sold to Shubael Colvin of Moosup, Connecticut, who made this his home until his death some years later. The house was then sold to its present owner, William Alexander, who came to Greene from Pawtucket several years ago.

We now go across the Buckshorn River once more to a small home first owned, and occupied for many years, by Andrew J. Cahoon. It was afterward owned by Elisha Matteson, who came to Greene from Moosup Valley, and this was his home until his death a few years ago. The house is now owned by Mrs. Hattie M. Gee, who lives there at the present time.

A short distance farther another home was built by John Peck, and was his home until his death in the late nineties. Lucius Capwell then moved there and lived for several years,—finally selling to William R. Potter, who now lives there.

We now come back to the railroad crossing and proceed east along the side of the railroad on what has been known from the early days as Benefit Street. In 1890 Rev. Ansel M. Bourne came to Greene and erected a new house on the first lot east of the store and for several years made this his home, finally removing with his family to Providence. It was afterward, for some years, the home of the Pastor of the Methodist Church. Later the house was bought by John H. Tanner and until his death was his home. Finally the house was destroyed by fire, and a new house was built by Mrs. Tanner, now occupied by her.

The next house on Benefit Street was built by Charles Borden, storekeeper and station agent, and was afterward owned by his sister, Mrs. Bailey. In 1890 S. H. Potter became the owner, and it is now the home of his widow, Mrs. Amanda Potter, and his daughter, Eva A. Potter.

The next house on Benefit Street is one of the oldest in the village and was built early in the history of Greene by Stephen Brown of W. V. Phillips & Company. For many years this was the home of Mr. Brown and his family. After his death his widow and children continued to make this their home, but the children grew up and have gone away, some of them far from this, their birthplace. James Knight and his daughter Ida became owners of the house, and at their death it became the property of two brothers of James Knight—Thomas J. and John Knight, of West Greenwich.

The next home on Benefit Street was the first house built by Herbert Stone and later sold to Seneca S. Rathbun, who came here in 1871 and worked with several of his sons in the mill which was then in operation. After many years' residence here he moved to Gibson Hill in Connecticut. This home is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Earl Cargile, who have made many improvements so that it is now one of the best homes in Greene.

The next home, built by Stephen Wilcox in the early days of the village, later became the property of Jeremiah S. McGregor, who made his home here for several years and then removed to Thompson, Connecticut. It was then by purchase owned by a Mrs. Grant, and upon her removal became the property of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Hopkins, who rent it.

The next home on Benefit Street was built by John Rowond, who lived here a few years, and then sold it to Nathan Kenyon, who married Amanda Briggs, daughter of Olney Briggs, one of the owners of the land which is now Greene. He removed to Providence and the place was bought by Elijah Robinson of Moosup who made it his home until his death. It is now owned by Henry R. Albro, who carries on a trucking business in Greene and vicinity.

The last home on Benefit Street was built by Thomas Holihan, our first and only baggagemaster, who lived there until his removal to Bridgeport, Connecticut, where he was a railroad employe until his death several years ago. The house became the property of J. S. McGregor, whose son John made it his home until his removal to East Providence. It then became the home of Albert W. Aldrich, who lived there for many years until shortly before his death. It is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Finley, son-in-law and daughter of A. W. Aldrich.

We have now reached the eastern limit of the village and must again return to the railroad crossing and go west along the railroad to the house farthest west, which was one of the first homes built in Greene. This house was built by Mathias Labold, a German, who was employed for several years as watchman for the Lewis crossing and bridge across the Lewis River. This work was finally abandoned, and Mr. Labold and his family went to New Jersey. It then became the property of Charles H. Jordan, son of Esek Jordan. Charles H. Jordan lived here several years until the death of Esek Jordan, when he removed to Oneco, Connecticut. The house became the home of Frank Peavey, who lived there for some years and then moved to Maine. Later it was sold to Almoran Potter, who lived there a few years,—and then sold to Cyrus Andrew who lived there until his death. Afterward his widow occupied the house until her death a few years ago in Sterling, Connecticut. It is now the property of Mrs. Nelson Capwell, and is occupied by her brother, S. G. Wood.

Farther east a short distance is the home of Nelson G. Capwell. This house was erected by the late Hiram Peavey, who came to Greene from Providence. He lived in the house for a few years, and then removed about a mile farther northwest on the Lewis River, where he erected a machine shop and lived until his death. Soon after the house was sold to Nelson G. Capwell and it is now his home.

Only one home now remains to be described, that of William H. Brown, which is written up under "Stores."

There has been space for only a brief sketch of each of these homes, but enough has been written to give some idea of them, their location in the village, and those who have lived in them through the years.

### GREENE AND ITS STORES

One of the necessities in a country village or community is what is known as the country store. In the olden days before these villages and towns came into being the store was not so necessary, as the country folks raised most of their living on their farms and made their own clothing, and most of their furniture and house

furnishings were home-made. They raised all the grain they needed for their cattle and horses, and they raised sheep which furnished most of their clothing both for every day and for Sunday best, so that in the early days the country stores were not plentiful. As it meant a day's work lost on the farm they were visited only when necessity called for something which could not be raised or made on the farm.

The first country store in this community was opened by John Harris, of Sterling Hill, who came to Hopkins Hollow in 1858 and located his store which for more than seventy years was conducted by him and his son, James H., who was made a partner early in the seventies. After the death of John Harris the store was carried on by James H. Harris until a few years ago when age forced him to retire.

The first country store in the village of Greene was started in 1860 by W. V. Phillips in the basement of the home of Squire G. Wood which faced the street. For three years he conducted this store. He had as assistants Leonard Tillinghast, Amasa P. Taber and Henry Page, with Miss Lizzie Wood as bookkeeper. In those days most of the store accounts were run on long credit, the customers turning in their eggs and produce, and wood which was used by the railroad, so that cash accounts were rare. Later when other business was started this was somewhat changed and cash accounts became more frequent. In 1863 the store was sold to Leonard Tillinghast & Company which ran a heavy grain trade in connection with the grocery and dry goods trade. For a number of years this store was the largest in this section and was very prosperous for ten years or more until the great failure in business in the late seventies. After this failure the store was carried on by Amasa P. Taber for three years, when through some disagreement with the owner the store was moved to a building opposite and the firm became Borden and Taber, by reason of a partnership with Charles T. Borden. This lasted only one year, and the store was carried on by A. P. Taber, until his removal to Almyville, Connecticut.

In the year 1863 Caleb T. Jordan came to Greene from Clayville and erected a building on the north side of the railroad track, just west of the highway, with rooms for store in the lower story and a second story for living rooms. He carried on business at

this store for several years and then removed to Cranston, R. I. A few years later this building was bought by Henry Whitman of North Sterling, Connecticut, who opened a store, which he carried on until his death several years ago.

In 1882 Curnel S. Brown came here from West Greenwich and opened a grocery and market in what was formerly a storehouse for grain. This store was carried on by him for several years and then sold.

In 1885 Charles Stone, son of William A. Stone, came here from Washington, R. I., and opened a store in the large building then owned by Daniel Tillinghast. This store was sold to Arthur Craven, who came to Greene from Providence. In 1892 the store was again sold to Stephen H. Potter, who came from Moosup Valley where for ten years previous he had conducted a country store very successfully. For nearly twenty years Mr. Potter carried on his business at Greene with profit to himself, and as he was very honest and square in all his dealings he made many friends and ran a very successful store, having a very large grain trade, and always keeping the store well stocked. He finally retired. His stock and fixtures were sold to A. P. Browning, who ran the store for a few years and then it became the property of John H. Tanner of Exeter, R. I., who had been a very prosperous lumberman for many years. After his death the store was run for several years by his widow, and then was sold to Charles H. Arnold, the present proprietor.

For short periods of time others have carried on business here, some for a few months, and some not so long, but during the entire history of the village the country store has been here to furnish necessities and some of the luxuries of life.

For a short time another small store was run by the late Charles E. Capwell in a small building nearly opposite the camp grounds, but this store was discontinued after a short time, and there is now only one store to supply the needs of this community.

### GREENE AND ITS HIGHWAYS

In the early days before Greene was settled the little highway travel was by foot or by wagons drawn by horses or oxen. As the roads from place to place were very crooked and rough, very muddy

in the spring of the year, and sometimes impassable in winter by reason of the heavy snows, locomotion over the country roads was bound to be very slow, probably averaging four or five miles an hour. Six miles an hour was not common, and a horse which could go at that speed was thought a wonder and commanded a high price. Most of the roads in the vicinity of Greene were common dirt roads and so travel over them was very slow. The main road south from Greene to Hopkins Hollow, beyond into West Greenwich and eastward toward Summit over the south road by the Nathaniel Arnold Farm, now known as the "Arnold Farms," was much used by the heavy team wagons drawing wood and lumber or logs for the mill here. Anywhere from twenty to thirty teams, using from two to four horses, were sent over this road, usually making two trips a day, one in the forenoon and another in the afternoon, bringing their loads to Greene, and returning sometimes empty and sometimes loaded with grain to be used at home. Some of these teams were owned at Greene, but most of them were owned by residents of West Greenwich and even further.

The country roads were kept in repair by someone appointed by the council elected by the town. Joseph T. Hopkins for many years had the supervision of the road from Greene to Hopkins Hollow, and then to the town line of West Greenwich,—also south to Narrowlane. Others had sections of the road between Greene and Summit, both by the south road and over Bowen's Hill. The repairs made the roads fairly passable for teams during the pleasant months, but during the winter they were full of humps and hollows which made for slow and careful travel.

In the early days of the new century began to be seen a new machine which was to revolutionize the roads and the ways of travel on both city and country highways. This was the automobile. At first most of the automobiles were light machines, but able to make from fifteen to twenty miles an hour over the roads as they then were. But the coming of the automobile meant we must have better roads, roads that were smooth and enduring, and built to withstand heavy traffic which was sure to come. The building of such roads was to come, but was to meet much opposition on the part of the general public because of the high cost of

installation and fear of a heavy increase in taxes by the farmers who thought that what was good enough for their fathers was good enough for them,—and it was some time before much improvement was made in this section.

In the early part of this century a piece of new macadam road was built by our late senator, Edward E. Arnold, at his expense, as an object lesson to those riding between Greene and Hopkins Hollow. This piece of road between the Methodist Church at the south end of the village and the farther end of the camp ground was built by laying a solid foundation of stone and covering with a top of gravel and tar rolled by a heavy roller until level and solid. This was the first piece of road of this kind to be put in, and it made of a mucky soft road a road which still stands after more than twenty-five years' use. Soon after, Mr. Arnold used his influence toward having a new macadamized road from Greene to Summit, parallel with the steam right of way between the two villages. Shortly after, this road was surveyed and built, proceeding through Summit to Coventry and Washington, there connecting with the main highway to Providence. Later Mr. Arnold was instrumental in having the rough country road from Greene west replaced by a wide macadam road connecting at Fairbanks Corners with the Plainfield Pike. A new road has been built from Greene south to the bridge crossing the Narrowlane River,—and also a new road from the schoolhouse to the corner south of the Arnold home, leading east to Summit and south to Narrowlane. From here these two roads are the old style roads, but in good condition for all travel. The old settlers who were content with riding four or five miles an hour would be surprised to see machines covering from thirty to fifty miles an hour over these same roads. Such has been the gain in the last thirty years. Where there was one team there are now surely twenty-five automobiles, and probably more. A horse and wagon is now a rare sight. All, both rich and poor, are using gas wagons.

### GREENE AND ITS SCHOOLS

Some time between 1845 and 1850 was built the first schoolhouse for this community. It was located at Hopkins Hollow, and was used for school purposes, and as a place to hold religious meetings

before the church was built about ten years later. Later the town was divided into districts, and this school district became Number Five. In those days each district was run by the legal voters in that district. An annual meeting of each district was held in April of each year, at which meeting were elected a moderator, a clerk, a treasurer, and, most important, a trustee, who hired the teachers, had charge of the schoolhouse, saw that it was properly cared for by the teacher in charge, saw that a supply of fuel was furnished for winter and such other supplies as were needed. Sometimes the trustee would be elected several years in succession and sometimes for only one year, depending on how successful were the teachers he hired. It was considered quite an honor to be elected to the office of trustee, and so the annual district meetings were always well attended, and many warm meetings were held in the early days, especially after Greene became settled, making a large increase in the number of scholars to attend.

Among the early teachers were Joseph Tillinghast and Ezra K. Parker, both of whom served on the town school committee in later years.

The school was usually kept a short term in summer, and a long term of four or five months in the winter, with a woman teacher in the summer, and a man teacher in the winter when the larger boys and girls were able to attend.

This schoolhouse was used for school purposes until about 1870, when the voters at Greene came together and decided they needed a schoolhouse located either in the village of Greene or near by. As they furnished the majority of those who attended, and as the attendance was too large for the old schoolhouse, a special district meeting was called, and the matter of a new school was hotly discussed, much opposition being shown from the south part of the district which wished to retain the schoolhouse at Hopkins Hollow.

Finally after a long fight and several meetings of the district voters a compromise was reached and the new schoolhouse was located on the ground bought of Douglas Briggs. In 1872 it was used for the first summer term, the late Nellie Bates Brown being the first teacher in the new schoolhouse. She was followed by Elisha Baggs, G. Browning, Caleb Bates, and many others of the

old time teachers. The new schoolhouse was built as a two-room schoolhouse,—a small room for the very small scholars and a large room for all others.

Several years ago the district system of control and the district officers were abolished,—the whole town electing a school committee, which elects a school superintendent, who has full charge of all schools and buildings in the town.

This committee, through its superintendent, hires all teachers and pays all bills for teaching, repairs, and so forth as they become due.

Greene has always had a good school, and the teachers from the early days to the present have tried to fit those who came to them for the years ahead when they would need the education received in the school at Greene.

Following is a list of scholars who entered at Hopkins Hollow November 25, 1860, and attended during the winter term of 1860 and 1861. The name of the teacher is not given on the register sixty-eight years old, but it is probable that it was Joseph Tillinghast who was teaching winters and farming summers.

ADELAIDE M. LEWIS....	Age 14	ELLIN HIGGINS.....	Age 11
LAFAYETTE LEWIS....	" 11	MARY HIGGINS.....	" 8
OLIVER LEWIS.....	" 14	THOMAS HIGGINS.....	" 5
JOHN P. LEWIS.....	" 12	ANNA J. HOPKINS.....	" 7
BYRON M. LEWIS.....	" 6	LUCY ELLEN HOPKINS.	" 5
WILLIAM A. LEWIS....	" 17	ABBY ELLA BRIGGS....	" 7
HENRY N. ARNOLD....	" 19	SELVIS M. BRIGGS....	" 5
HARRIET M. ARNOLD..	" 13	ALFRED W. KNIGHT...	" 8
EDWARD E. ARNOLD...	" 7	MARGARET McGUIRE..	" 8
AMEY E. WOOD.....	" 15	JOHN McGUIRE.....	" 5
LUCIUS E. CAPWELL...	" 17	MARTHA KEITH.....	" 12
SARAH J. CAPWELL....	" 15	LYMAN KEITH.....	" 9
CHARLES E. CAPWELL.	" 12	HERBERT WILBUR....	" 6
ARABELLA J. CAPWELL	" 9	ALBERT H. PARKHURST	" 13
LYDIA B. RIDER.....	" 13	ABBY E. FISKE.....	" 8
EUGENE E. RIDER....	" 11	AMASA P. TABER....	" 13
WALTER W. RIDER....	" 7	GEORGE TABER.....	" 8

Of this list of thirty-four names only the following are known to be still living:

BYRON M. LEWIS, now living at East Killingly, Conn.

AMEY E. WOOD, now Mrs. Amey E. Potter of Providence.

EUGENE E. RIDER of Providence.

WALTER W. RIDER of Danielson, Conn.

ANNA J. HOPKINS, now Mrs. Anna J. Franklin of Providence.

AMASA P. TABER of Centreville, R. I.

It would be interesting to follow these thirty-four scholars in their lives and see what they did in the years after. Most of them went away from Greene, and the village never heard from some of them after they left. However, we know most of them are gone, never to come back to us, but we hope to meet them in the Great Beyond. Through the education received at the old schoolhouse now in ruins and at the new schoolhouse nearer the village hundreds have gone out into the world better fitted for the life work before them, through the efforts of the school teachers at Greene and Hopkins Hollow.

### GREENE AND ITS CHURCHES

After the founding of the village in 1857 for many years the people of the village of Greene and for several miles around had a large interest in, and all of the older members of the community were members of, the church at Rice City known as the Rice City Christian Baptist Church, which was founded in 1815 by Elder James Varnum, who came from the South, a total stranger,—but through efforts a strong and good working church was started which has continued to the present time.

During the early history of Greene this church had as pastors James Burlingame, who for forty years was its leader and who never received very high pay for his work, Rev. Mason Hopkins, Rev. George W. Kennedy, and Rev. John A. Perry.

During Rev. Mr. Perry's pastorate of about five years this church probably reached its highest mark both in membership and attendance, and the church prospered greatly. During this pastorate a number of members withdrew to form a church at Summit under the Rev. William A. Sweet as pastor.

In 1870 Rev. Albert Blanchard became pastor and trouble came into the church so that quite a large number withdrew under Rev. George W. Kennedy and a new church was built at Moosup Valley, which is still in existence, having been for many years a part of a circuit served by the pastor at the Line, so called.

Rev. Fred A. Baker so served these two churches; also Rev. Harvey Filmer was pastor of both churches for eleven years.

As a result of the trouble in 1870, W. V. Phillips and his wife, George W. Rider and his wife, Esek Griffiths and his wife, withdrew from the church at Rice City and began the formation of a church at Greene known as the Greene Methodist Church. Rev. Mr. Goodrich came here for a few Sundays, and also Rev. George M. Hamlin of Washington, R. I. Greene had at that time a small hall over Taber's Store, which was not large enough to accommodate those attending Sunday school and church, but in 1873 a new building was erected north of the railroad, forty by eighty, a large building for those days, and as soon as the hall was completed it was used on Sundays for religious services by the new church and congregation as a meeting place.

In the year 1873 a formal meeting was held and the following names made up the charter list of the Greene M. E. Church:

GEORGE W. RIDER and wife, LOIS A. RIDER

S. T. DAMON and wife, SUSANAH DAMON

EUGENE E. RIDER

LYMAN DAVIS and wife, SERENA DAVIS

EDWARD PEARCE

EMELINE E. HOPKINS

BESSIE A. RIDER

EMMELINE GRIFFITH

HORACE N. WOOD and wife, MARY F. WOOD

WHIPPLE V. PHILLIPS and wife, ROBIE A. PHILLIPS

In 1874 Rev. George W. Hunt, a young man, was appointed to preach here, and under his leadership the present church building was erected and dedicated to the worship of God according to the Methodist faith. For a few years the church prospered, but after the business of the village stopped the members moved away, and today Eugene E. Rider is the only charter member living.

After the business crash this church was for several years supplied by the Presiding Elders of the Conference. In 1875 Nelson Goodrich was the pastor here. In 1881 and 1882 Rev. George M. Hamlin was pastor. Following this, services were held only occasionally, but in 1887 a church was built at Oneco, Connecticut, and since that time the church at Greene has been supplied in connection with that church.

Rev. Joseph Jackson was the first pastor to be sent under the new arrangement. He supplied here for three years, until 1890. For several years following 1890 Greene had no regular pastor, but services were held when possible. In 1892 Rev. Charles B. Bromley became pastor here and stayed three years. He was followed in 1895 by Rev. E. J. Sampson and he was followed in 1898 by Rev. Thomas W. Douglas who was pastor for two years. These three pastors served Greene alone, living here during their several pastorates, and the church was quite well attended and regular services were held through these years.

In 1900 Greene was supplied by Rev. George W. Crabbe, who was also pastor at Oneco for four years. In 1905 Rev. Owen E. Tourtellot came here as pastor in connection with Oneco and stayed two years. He was followed in 1907 by J. J. Yost, a young student who supplied only one year. He was followed by Rev. Samuel Thatcher, who was pastor here for four years, and during his pastorate the church was built up and several members added to the roll of membership.

In 1912 Rev. Wilbur E. Newton became the pastor here, and during his stay several improvements were made on the inside of the church. He was pastor for three years, and much liked by all who knew him.

In 1915 Rev. Fred Sterling was appointed to Greene and Oneco and supplied for two years. In 1918 Rev. George A. Smith was pastor. Rev. J. M. Vomdeck was pastor from 1922 to 1927. He was followed by Rev. George C. Richardson for one year. The present pastor is Rev. D. E. Lafollette, who supplies the circuit of Greene, Oneco and Sterling. The services are held at two o'clock standard time each Sunday. The membership of this church is now very small, and the church services are supported by the community, regardless of their faith or church connection. During

these years there have always been a faithful few who by their presence and help have kept the church going.

Early in the last half of the nineteenth century a small church was built at Hopkins Hollow by the members of Rice City Church, for use by the members in the south part of the parish. The principal reason for building this church was to furnish a meeting place for evening services. Preaching services were also held here on Sunday afternoons in connection with the services at Rice City. For many years a Sunday school was held here, W. H. Jordan and others having charge. As the years rolled along these services were discontinued and the church was used only for funeral services for those in the community.

About 1910 Rev. Charles A. Meader, who had been appointed traveling missionary for Rhode Island, began to hold services for the several members of the Episcopal faith who had come to reside in the community. These services were held Sunday after Sunday, and were very well attended by Christians of all faiths. They were financed in part by the State Convention of the Episcopal Church, and in part by the late Edward E. Arnold, who was very much interested. Under Mr. Arnold's direction the church building was completely renovated inside and out, and a large shed was built for the accommodation of those who came by horse and carriage. Rev. Mr. Meader finally moved to Hopkins Hollow and for five years was a resident of this community. Since his departure to East Greenwich to become resident rector there, this church has been in charge of the State missionary, who holds afternoon services nearly every Sunday. The attendance is not large, but during the summer is somewhat larger than at other seasons.

### GREENE AND ITS PHYSICIANS

In the early days before Greene became settled doctors were few and widely separated. In case of sickness, families depended upon the skill of the older persons who had had much experience in sickness. Home remedies were used, which usually were successful, and great dependence was also placed on patent medicines.

Early in the history of Greene, Doctor Proctor K. Hutchinson, who settled in Rice City, was the only physician for miles around. For many years he rode night and day through this territory to give medical help to those who needed it. He was a very successful doctor, and his practice became very large, including Greene, Summit, and extending far into West Greenwich. He died in 1869, and soon after Greene had its first resident doctor, Dr. Frank B. Smith of Moosup, Connecticut, who located his office in the home of Whipple V. Phillips, now owned by A. N. Cleveland. From the first Dr. Smith was very successful in his treatment of the cases under his care. As he had his predecessor's large territory to cover, it meant long rides and long days, and many sleepless nights, to attend the many calls which came to him. Most of this large community came to depend on Dr. Smith for help in time of sickness. He stayed here until the early eighties, when he removed to Washington, R. I., where he still resides, beloved by all who know him.

Greene had no resident doctor for several years until 1885, when Dr. Charles M. Ormsbee came from Greenville, Connecticut, and located in what was formerly the George T. Brown home, where he had his office for many years. He moved to Quidnick, R. I., where he built up a large practice. He died in 1927.

Several other doctors have located in Greene for short periods of time, among them being Dr. Starkweather, Dr. R. L. Shea, and Dr. John Hoover who practiced here for several years and then moved to Voluntown, Connecticut.

At the present time Greene has no resident doctor, but is dependent on the doctors of Moosup, Connecticut, or Washington, Rhode Island, for medical help. There is room for a good doctor in Greene and its surrounding community, and one is badly needed in case of sudden severe sickness and accident. It is hoped that a doctor may locate here in the near future.

#### GREENE AND ITS POST OFFICE AND RURAL DELIVERY

In the early days of this community before Greene was settled few letters were written or received, and the receipt of a letter from abroad was an event to be talked about by the family

receiving the message, and it was also news for the immediate community.

There were no mail carriers in those days, and many of the farmers were dependent on their neighbors for the delivery of their letters and weekly newspapers. Newspapers were taken by only a few, and after being read by the family were lent to those in the neighborhood who were interested. Postage on letters was very high, and only such business letters as were necessary were sent away, most of the business being done by word of mouth. Good letter writers were few, one or two in a neighborhood doing whatever writing was necessary.

In the early days the mails were carried on the stages, which in this community ran over the Plainfield Pike from Providence to Norwich, Connecticut, by way of Plainfield. The first post office for this territory was located at Rice City, and was in charge of Col. Samuel Rice as Postmaster. This continued until about 1860, when Whipple V. Phillips set up a store and post office under the home of Squire G. Wood, the mails having been transferred to the railroad baggage cars and daily mails received from both east and west and also sent out morning and evening by train. Daily newspapers began to appear, and as the business of the village increased the mails increased. Soon after this post office was established the farmers and others in West Greenwich made a bid for better mail facilities, and a post office called West Greenwich Centre was established, the late Pardon T. Bates being the first Postmaster, and holding the position until his death in 1896, when it was taken over by his son, John A. Bates, and remained under him until its discontinuance about a year ago.

At about the same time another post office was established at Escoheag Hill, which is still in service.

Soon after these two post offices were established, a mail route was opened to supply them with their mail, and the late Alexander Peck was the first mail carrier, making two trips a week, Tuesdays and Fridays. This was afterward changed to three trips a week, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays,—and this continued until the death of Mr. Peck.

Soon after 1885 this route was made a daily route, and Daniel Tillinghast, who had moved to Greene, was for many years the

mail carrier on this route. For several years now this route has been covered by Howard Trenn, each day.

Some years after 1885 another route was established, going north through Rice City, Moosup Valley and a part of Bowen's Hill. This route was first opened by the late Charles E. Howland, who covered it for many years. It has now been enlarged to cover twenty-five miles of territory. Norman Baxter of Crompton, R. I., has been the mail carrier for several years past and is at the present time.

After holding office at Greene for six years Mr. Phillips was followed by Leonard Tillinghast, who served as Postmaster for ten years. This was during the best years of Greene's existence. Business was flourishing, and during this time the mail service was increased to two mails a day each way.

Mr. Tillinghast was followed by Amasa P. Taber, who moved the office across the street under what was then the Masonic Hall. Mr. Taber finally removed to Almyville, Connecticut. Oliver Lewis was Postmaster for a few years.

In 1885 a petition was circulated by Curnel S. Brown, and in that year he became the Postmaster, which position he held for twenty-seven years. The post office was located at his home during all those years, with credit to himself, and the community was well served.

For a year and a half Stephen H. Potter was Postmaster, the post office being moved across the railroad to his store.

It was moved back to Curnel Brown's home, where it was kept until his resignation of the office, when it was removed across the railroad to a building owned by Charles Howland. Miss Alice M. Kettle was made Postmistress, which position she held for twelve years, until her resignation. Then Charles H. Arnold, storekeeper, became Postmaster, which position he is filling at the present time.

Almost from the beginning of a post office here the mails have been handled by the railroad company, for the first few years without sorting, being carried in the baggage car and handled by the baggagemaster of the train. Later mail cars fitted for the sorting of mail on the road were introduced and mail clerks made daily trips between Providence and Willimantic, Connecticut, handling the mails for each station on the route. A few years ago

these mail cars were taken off, and now Greene receives her mail by truck twice a day, in the morning from the west and in the afternoon from the east. The Greene Post Office has, and always has had, very heavy mails, because of the two mail routes out of the village.

### GREENE CAMP MEETING

No history of Greene and community would be complete without some mention of the Greene Camp Meetings which have been held for many years. The meetings for many years have been held some time in August, in the early years beginning on Friday and holding over two Sundays, the last Sunday being the big day of the meeting.

The first camp meeting was held in the summer of 1874 in a tent at what is known as Rider's Corner. The meeting was small compared with those of later years. The next year the Advents held another camp meeting at Coventry Centre in the pine grove back of the new town hall. Meetings were held here for five years, large crowds attending on the Big Sunday, so-called. This caused the association which had been formed to look for a larger and permanent place to hold their meetings. In 1880 the present site of the camp meetings was bought from the late Squire G. Wood. Two brothers, Henry and Asher Matteson of Anthony, were responsible for the deal for the association. This site is located about a quarter of a mile south of Greene, and comprises about fifty acres of land with a very fine grove of oak and chestnut trees. This was cleaned out and a large boarding house erected. The first year the services were held in a large tent furnished by Elder J. Bellows, one of the pioneers in the movement. That year and for several years after those who came to attend through the week or ten days of services stayed in tents. The preachers were taken care of in rooms over the boarding house. Soon after what was to be known as the Tabernacle was built, and the big tent was used for the other services. In the early years the attendance during the week was very large, as many as twenty or more tents being set up in a circle around the preaching stand. In later years cottages began to be built by those who came each year and the

tents began to disappear, and today few tents are used, most of those coming staying in their cottages or being cared for at the boarding house. In the early days and for many years the responsibility of feeding those present through the meeting and those who came on the big days was laid on Jason P. Hazard and his good wife. All were well cared for,—a great task in those days with twenty or more preachers to be fed and provided with rooms, besides those preachers who came from a distance for one or two days.

The presiding officer for many years, who was responsible for the services and preachers and all other details was Rev. P. S. Butter of Woodstock Valley, Connecticut. For many years he never missed a meeting and made an excellent presiding officer. Since his time several others have held this office,—Rev. W. C. Seyfert of Lafayette being the present elder in charge. It would be interesting to have a list of those who have preached to the thousands who have attended this camp meeting during almost half a century, but space will permit of mentioning only a few of the more prominent speakers.

For many years the Friday before the Big Sunday was made a Temperance Day, and on this day addresses were made on this subject by speakers from the W. C. T. U. and others in the forenoon, and in the afternoon by Rev. Otis J. Range, a Methodist preacher from the New York East Conference, who came to Greene for nearly or quite twenty-five years to speak on this subject, and to preach once or twice on the Big Sundays to the immense crowds which always came on those days. Rev. Mr. Range was a very fine speaker and capable of holding a large crowd spellbound, anxious to hear what he had to say. Other preachers who will be remembered by those who attended in the early years were H. L. Hastings of Boston, Rev. Joseph Miett, Rev. Edwin R. Wood, Rev. Joseph J. Northup and many others of that time. In later years Rev. Mr. Hewitt and Rev. Wm. H. Durfee are remembered. Today the meetings are in charge of the younger set and conducted mostly by the younger preachers.

In the olden days the only ways of reaching the camp meeting were by train, horse and wagon, or afoot. The New England Railroad, and later the New Haven Railroad, had the bulk of the

travel. Hence camp meeting days were busy days for all connected with the railroad. Reduced fares were the usual thing, and extra cars were run on all trains. On Big Sundays special trains were run from both directions, each train having from ten to fifteen cars all packed to the doors, which, with those who came by horse and wagon, many driving fifteen or twenty miles, made a crowd of several thousand upon the grounds between ten o'clock in the morning and four-thirty in the afternoon. It is safe to say that close to one hundred thousand people have attended Greene Camp Meetings since 1880, many coming every year for many years, others only a few times. Today the attendance on Big Sunday hardly reaches a thousand, where years ago it was ten or fifteen thousand. Times have changed. Today there are no special trains. All come by automobile. Other attractions call the crowds elsewhere, and the attendance through the week is not large. In a few years the camp meeting will probably be a thing of the past for Greene and the surrounding country. All of the older men and women who were so much interested are gone, and the young like to spend their vacations elsewhere or attend the large camp meetings where they can see and hear those whom they have not heard before. This year's meeting (1929) is to be held early in August, for five days, instead of the ten or more of former years. Many improvements have been made on the grounds, electric lights have been installed, all the buildings have been repaired and the grounds cleaned up, making it a very pleasant place to hold services. Many come out early and stay a week or two before the meeting and through the meeting. In the early years this meeting was strongly denominational. In later years it has become more of an educational service, the preaching services being held evenings only and on the Sabbath.

### GREENE VICINITY AND ITS INDUSTRIES

Probably the first industry to be established in this community was the Grist Mill at Hopkins Hollow, by Peleg Andrews, in the early fifties of the last century. The Grist Mill was a necessity in those days, for all the farmers within a radius of several miles raised each year several acres of corn to be ground into eating meal. Johnny cake and brown bread were the staple bread foods of those days,—and corn meal was needed for cattle, horses and chickens.

Flour was a luxury and was used only sparingly for pies and occasionally for white bread. A man who could grind good meal was bound to have plenty of business during the fall and winter, and more or less through the whole year. Mr. Andrews put in a dam and built a flume to furnish the water power for his mill. His pay for grinding was fixed by law as two quarts of corn from each bushel ground. He ground both eating meal and coarser meal for feeding.

Some time after his death William S. Pearce from New York State bought the Andrews Farm and Grist Mill, and made many improvements on the mill, putting in a batter and a cob breaker, thus saving the shelling of corn to be used as feed for horses and cattle, grinding both cob and corn together. He also purchased Western corn by the car, and ground it into meal for horses and cattle,—the first yellow meal in this community. He tended the Grist Mill for many years, and after his death it was run by the late John Brown for several years; until George G. Phillips came to live there, where he ground such grists as were brought in and began making a special kind of Johnny cake meal and putting it into packages to be sold at the stores. This was continued by Rev. Charles A. Meader. Since his removal the Grist Mill has been idle. It is now owned by Mrs. Edward E. Arnold.

At about the same time as the erection of the Grist Mill, a short distance down the river toward the bridge a saw mill was erected, to be run by water power, using an up-and-down saw to saw the logs into boards and timber. A shingle mill was also added, and the saw mill was operated by Joseph T. Hopkins, for many years assisted by his boys and sometimes by his girls, who packed shingles into bunches for shipment. This mill after some years was abandoned and rotted down. Only the older generation would know where it was.

Also about that time an acid works, located back of where Ambrose Hopkins then lived—now the home of John Matteson—was run for several years, making acid from wood. This was owned by Bela P. Clapp of Pawtucket, and later was abandoned for his larger plant farther south in West Greenwich.

In Greene the first industry was a saw mill and grist mill combined. There was a machine for sawing logs into boxboards, a

shingle mill, a machine for sawing staves, a sawing machine, and splitter for making short wood and kindlings.

In 1866 a company was formed, consisting of Whipple V. Phillips, Leonard Tillinghast, and Stephen H. Brown, to erect a building and equip it for carrying on the wood and grain business in Greene. The mill was erected in 1867 and stood where the house owned by Mrs. Arthur Dexter now stands. It was built with a high basement capable of holding one or more steam railroad cars to be loaded with kindling and short wood. A spur track was built from just west of the home of W. H. Brown, which crossed the road and followed the bank wall into the mill. The cars were taken back and forth by horse power from the mill to the switch, and then added to the freight train going east, sometimes each day, sometimes every other day, according to orders. An office was established in Providence to take care of the selling. The mill was run by steam power, and a large engine and boiler were installed on the north end on the ground floor, which furnished plenty of power for both sawmill and grist mill which was also located on the ground floor. The mill furnished work for many hands, and several teams were employed in drawing logs, wood and so forth to be made into box boards, kindling, staves and shingles. For nearly twenty years this mill was in operation and furnished work for the village.

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In 1877 a new industry was added to Greene and a new building erected just south of the mill. This was a horn jewelry shop, for making horn jewelry, combs, and so forth, from the horns of cattle. These horns were shipped here from the West in carloads, sawed into proper lengths, steamed soft, then split and pressed flat, sawed by machinery into patterns desired, colored and polished, ready for shipment. This industry was started in Greene by Goldsmith and Wheatley, a firm which came from abroad. The industry flourished for a few years and then removed to Providence, R. I.

For a short time a blasting furnace for melting iron ore was in operation, the iron ore being taken from a mine in Foster and brought to Greene by team,—but not proving to be a paying operation the furnace was sold and the building was torn down.

There have been one or two local saw mills since the early days, —one a shingle mill set up by Herbert A. Stone on the west side

of the Buckshorn near George Scott's,—and another by a Mr. Wilcox from Bristol which was located on the site of the new library building. Later a saw mill was set up by John A. Brown. Its story will be told later.

We now go about a mile west on the Buckshorn River, to the junction of the road from Greene to Rice City and the Lewis Road, so-called, going southeast to Rider's Corner. The first industry here was a grist mill. A small dam across the river was built some time in the early fifties, and a flume leading to the mill was put in. The first miller was the late Adelbert K. Greene,—for one year. He was followed by Wilbur T. Greene, who ran the mill for several years, and was followed by David Knight, who stayed a few years and then became the keeper of the Town Poor Farm at Coventry Centre. Hiram Peavey afterward bought the place and erected a machine shop for repairing machinery, but this not proving successful, and the house being destroyed by fire, Mr. Peavey moved to Greene. Mr. Simeon Webster was the next owner of this land, and he erected a small home and stayed here for several years. He removed to East Blackstone, Massachusetts, and the property was bought by the late Edward E. Arnold, who erected a building for an experimental station\*, locally called the "Laboratory," which was very successfully conducted during the World War. During the building of this plant and afterward for several years work was furnished for many in the community. The work was stopped several years ago, but the building is still standing.

This completes the industries which have been in existence during the years and which have furnished work for many now long gone from us. The failure of W. V. Phillips & Company in 1879 brought to an end the industries in Greene and was a hardship to many, some losing heavily,—and the depression has lasted until the present time.

During the last forty years several firms have desired to locate at Greene, but no arrangements could be made, as those owning the land and privileges desired were unwilling to sell at reasonable prices, not thinking of the benefit to them and to the village later in increased population, increased business of all kinds, and greater land values. These opportunities probably will never come again to Greene and its surrounding territory.

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\*This station was operated by the Government.

## GREENE AND ITS DISASTERS

During its existence Greene has had two disasters which caused injury to many and several deaths.

The first disaster was on December 25, 1868, in the store building now owned by Sanford T. Briggs. The second story was then used as a hall, and the first story as a supper room, with a cellar below. Great preparations had been made for a Christmas tree, which was placed in the hall in the second story. The presents had been brought and placed on or near the tree in the west end of the hall. After the distribution of the gifts an entertainment was to be given, followed by supper downstairs. Jeremiah S. McGregor was to act as Santa Claus and he was present, dressed in an appropriate costume,—with Caleb T. Wood and Leonard Tillinghast to act as distributors of the gifts to those present. The hall was crowded to the doors, ready for the work to begin, but just as they were to commence the accident happened. The floor immediately in front of the tree gave way, carrying those in front down to the floor of the supper room. The immense heft broke this floor, carrying down those in front into the cellar, with those in the east end on top of them. There was great excitement and at first it looked as though many must be killed and many more badly injured. A few were not carried down and these at once proceeded to the rescue of those who had gone down. This took quite a long time and it was feared that many at the bottom would be found dead or badly injured, but after all had been rescued from their drop into the cellar only one was found badly injured, although many were bruised and cut and some had fainted from excitement and suddenness of the fall. One lady died from the effects of the accident, but it was fortunate that no more were killed or badly injured,—and it was fortunate, too, that the floor broke far away from the stove in the hall, so that it was left standing. If this had gone down it is probable that all would have been badly burned, and that the building would have been destroyed with many of those in it.

The main cause of the disaster was the removal of several of the supports of the hall floor in the supper room below to make room for the supper tables, and the failure to replace them before the

large crowd entered the hall for the Christmas tree. Some are still alive who went down at this time, but most of them are not.

The second disaster, in 1895, was caused by the blowing up of a steam boiler through the ignorance of a fireman who was running the engine. The engine and mill was the property of John A. Brown, who had moved it from West Greenwich for the purpose of sawing slabs and wood into stove lengths for his own use and for sale. On this morning John A. Brown and Lyman Scott were engaged in bolting up slabs, and there were several others standing near, watching the work. The fireman, a young man whose name is forgotten, reported to Mr. Brown that the water was low in the boiler, and Mr. Brown, not realizing the condition of the boiler, ordered him to put in more water. The boiler plates next the fire had been steamed dry and were red hot, so that as the cold water reached them the explosion took place, destroying the engine and boiler, and causing instant death to John A. Brown and Lyman Scott and injuries to several more. The fireman received a broken arm; Lee Remington, then a small boy, a broken hip; Mr. Gladding a broken arm. The explosion brought many to the scene in a short time, and a bonesetter, Byron Sweet, of Jewett City, arrived a few hours after the accident. Parts of the boiler have never been recovered. By this accident two who had known Greene from its beginning were suddenly and without warning sent into the Great Beyond. We are thankful that no other bad accidents have to be recorded.

#### GREENE AND ITS WAR VETERANS

Greene and its surrounding country has always had freemen who were willing to fight for their country whenever there was need, and some of them have made the supreme sacrifice and have given their lives for their country's good and to uphold the Union.

At least one of these was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, Major Jonathan Nichols, who lies buried a few miles south of Greene on a farm once owned by him, now a part of the Arnold Farms, owned by the family of the late Senator Edward E. Arnold.

As far as is known, Greene had no veteran of the Mexican War of 1845 nor of the second British War of 1812.

But the war of 1861-1865 between the North and South was the call for many from this community to take up arms and to fight for their country, some in the Infantry, some in the Batteries, and some in the Navy. Many of these returned after the war and lived among us for many years,—and some never came back. The following list shows those who have lived in Greene or in a radius of a few miles:

CURNEL S. BROWN, served in the Navy  
ALBERT W. ALDRICH, served in the Navy  
JOB S. JORDAN, served in the Infantry  
CHARLES T. JORDAN, served in the Infantry  
WILLIAM T. JORDAN  
WILLIAM H. JORDAN  
DAVID NICKERSON  
GEORGE REMINGTON  
WILLIAM F. MATTESON  
ELISHA H. MATTESON  
BOWEN M. MATTESON  
JEREMIAH D. HOPKINS  
JOHN A. BROWN  
LORIN M. SPENCER, of Rice City  
HENRY N. ARNOLD, died in battle  
GEORGE H. ARNOLD, killed in battle  
STEPHEN J. HARRINGTON  
AMASA P. TABER

There were not many in this community who took any part in the Spanish War of 1898, and only a few who were called to serve in the World War of 1914-1918,—Robert C. Dunbar and Albert J. Dunbar, sons of Rev. George H. Dunbar, and Harold N. Capwell, son of Nelson G. Capwell,—who served three years across the seas.

Greene and its surrounding territory has been represented in most of the contests in which our country has had part, and its sons have done their share in upholding the flag of our country which still waves over the home of the free and over those brave soldiers who served under its colors in time of need.

Only two Civil War veterans still live here at the present time, out of the many who once were present, and these two are both past the eighty mark in years.

Early in the eighties of the last century an order was issued by General John A. Logan for our first Memorial Day, and soon after it became by law a national holiday over the entire country. What was known as the Grand Army came into being, and posts were organized in all the cities and larger towns and villages. These Grand Army Posts were made up only of veterans of the Civil War who could show an honorable discharge from war duty, and all such veterans were urged to join the post nearest to them. Several of the veterans of this community joined the McGregor Post at Phenix, Rhode Island, which was named after Dr. John S. McGregor, a native of this community who lived at Phenix for many years and is buried there.

Soon after McGregor Post was organized and set going its attention was called to the many graves of veterans which were not decorated in Hopkins Hollow and other small cemeteries in this neighborhood, and arrangements were made to come to Hopkins Hollow the Sunday after Decoration Day. This was done for many years in succession, the Post bringing its music and speakers. William V. Slocum, an associate, was one of the favorite speakers who made an address here for several years. One or two years they came by train, but most of the years in moving vans drawn by four or six horses. This continued for several years, when an association was formed to look out for the exercises to be held at Hopkins Hollow, and the time was changed to Memorial Day. A drum corps was formed, which furnished the music, and the addresses were made by the ministers and other speakers in the neighborhood. Among those who have made the addresses were Rev. Charles A. Meader, Rev. Harry Filmer, Rev. W. C. Newton, Rev. Samuel Thatcher. Senator Edward E. Arnold made addresses several times, and always had a deep interest in the Memorial Day services until his death a few years ago. The veterans becoming more and more feeble and few in number, the memorial services for the past few years have been in charge of the sons of veterans, who will have charge of the sad services of remembering those who have gone from here to see their Great Com-

mander. They were true to their country while living. Let them be remembered after they have gone.

### GREENE AND ITS POLITICS

In the years before Greene was created a village the farmers which made up this community were divided into Henry Clays, Whigs and Jefferson Democrats. About the time Greene was put on the map the new political party to be known as the Republican party was formed, and most of the citizens of this territory became followers of that party and helped to elect Abraham Lincoln in 1861 and again in 1865,—and in fact all of the Republican candidates for President, as well as State and Town officers from then until the present time with few exceptions.

This community has had several of its citizens honored by election to the State Legislature as Senators or Representatives. Men of both parties have been elected, but Republicans have been in the majority. The men so honored have always represented this community to the best of their ability and with credit to themselves.

Among those who have been elected Senators and Representatives from this community were the following:

ADELBERT K. GREENE, Democrat

AMBROSE H. NICHOLAS, Republican. Senator 1912, Representative 1926 and 1927, Senator 1928 and 1929

GEORGE G. PHILLIPS, Republican, Senator

WILLIAM R. POTTER, Republican

EDWARD E. ARNOLD, Republican, Senator

JOHN Q. KETTLE, Democrat, Representative

STEPHEN H. POTTER, Republican, elected Representative, but did not serve because of being Postmaster

Of course conditions politically have changed very much between 1856 and the present time. Only freeholders of real estate could vote in the days of 1856. There were then no personal property or poll tax voters, the acts in regard to these coming many years later. In the state and town meetings the total vote was small compared with that of today when all classes of voters

may vote at every election with the exception of financial town meetings where only taxpayers can vote to assess a tax or to spend the town money. This village and community have always been greatly interested in town affairs as well as those of state and nation. Many have held office as members of the town council or as other town officers,—in the early years elections being held each year but now every two years.

As in the state, so in the town, most of the elections have gone in favor of the Republican party, but there have been some exceptions when the town officers have been elected by the Democrats, or, as in the past few years, by a new party called the Citizens' Party, made up of dissatisfied Republicans and Democrats to hold the balance of power and thus elect their officers.

Among those who have had much to do in town affairs during the late years of the past century and nearly thirty years of the present century are the following, who have been members of the town council, the body of men elected by the voters to do the business of the town during the term for which they were elected. In the years of the past century Caleb R. Nicholas, Joseph T. Hopkins, James H. Harris, John Brown, Daniel Freeman, and A. K. Greene were elected and served well. In the new century Edward E. Arnold, Charles M. Perry, Chester B. Andrews, Louis I. Andrews, and Fred A. Brown have served the community well as men who worked for the interest of the town, and this community has been much benefitted by their service. Others have held other offices less responsible, whose names are on the town records as serving well in the offices to which they were elected by the town.

### REPUBLICAN CLUB

In the fall of 1896, before the McKinley campaign was started, a Republican Club was formed. The first meeting was held in a hall under the residence of William F. Matteson, and officers were elected. Weekly meetings were held during the campaign and a large number were enrolled as members of the club. Open air meetings were held, and a grand rally was held just before election night. The organization was kept up for some time, meetings

being held monthly,—but the interest decreased and the attendance dwindled and it was decided to close up its affairs. The organization was partly revived in a later campaign and several meetings were held, but it is now a thing of the past. During recent campaigns no effort has been made to revive it and the campaigns have been very quiet. The club may come back some day to help the cause of the Republican party.

### GREENE AND ITS AMUSEMENTS

In the early years of the village the young folks were much handicapped in the matter of amusements because of no hall as a meeting place, until the small hall now owned by S. T. Briggs was built by W. V. Phillips, when several dances were held by the young people of that day.

Afterward upon the completion of the large hall, so called, ample room was furnished for all kinds of exhibitions, and several were given to packed audiences. One in particular in the early seventies was a play in which the late J. S. McGregor, Lucius E. Capwell, George Albert Brown and several others took part. The play had a murder plot which was very cleverly carried out, and was repeated one or two nights. Later several other plays were given, and for several winters the large hall was used as a skating rink during the roller skating period, during the early eighties. Later dancing parties were held, but as the young people went away these were gradually discontinued.

The small hall having been changed into a tenement and the large hall having been occupied by Ionic Lodge of Masons for several years, there has been no place where social gatherings could be held, and for many years there have been no entertainments of this kind given.

A few years ago one or two plays were given at the schoolhouse under the direction of Leander Capwell, which were very successful and furnished much pleasure to those who were present. Christmas entertainments held for the scholars of the public school and the School Break, so-called, at the end of the term, have been the main entertainments during the last twenty years of the village.

Early in the history of the village the ladies connected with the Rice City Church formed the Ladies' Aid Society and they gave

monthly suppers in the rooms now occupied by C. H. Arnold as a store. In recent years a similar ladies' society has been in existence, known as the Ladies' Sewing Circle, which meets once a week for work, and which has furnished suppers and entertainments for several years for the benefit of the Methodist Church in the village. This society is still active and doing good work.

While Greene was at its best a debating society was formed and held its meetings in the rooms under the large hall. Those who took part were Rev. G. W. Hunt, the pastor of the Methodist Church; Dr. Frank B. Smith, Leonard Tillinghast, W. V. Phillips. The debates were very interesting to all who took part and to those who listened. With the departure of these men to other places this club was forced to discontinue.

In the late nineties what was called The Literary Club was formed for the purpose of furnishing an evening of social enjoyment once a month. The officers were a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. This club was continued for several years and then by general consent it was voted to discontinue it.

In recent years another club has been formed of members from this community and Summit, called the Merry Fourteen. They have a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, and hold monthly meetings at the homes of the members in the vicinity. It is a social club which includes most of the young people in the community and is the only social club in this end of the town.

### GREENE AND ITS LIBRARY

In the early days of the village of Greene the principal reading was the weekly newspaper, and, in some homes, a weekly story paper to be read by all in the home and then lent to the neighbors to be read by them. One of the great story papers of those days was called the New York Ledger, printed in New York City by Robert Bonner & Sons. It was made up of continued stories of western life with the Indians, and love stories by both English and American writers. The paper had a very large circulation throughout Rhode Island, and several families in Greene had it in their homes every week in the year. Another story paper in those years was called The Saturday Night, also published in New York

City, and several copies were taken in Greene each week. Some years later Robert Bonner & Sons failed in business and their paper was discontinued. The Youth's Companion, published in Boston, Massachusetts, by Perry Mason & Company, was also taken by several homes. This was an excellent young folks' paper, and it is still published. Every home had a few books such as the Bible, Pilgrim's Progress and such religious books as were then published suitable for the older portion of the community, who seldom read anything but the newspaper and the story paper each week. The only books outside of the home were in the small Sunday school libraries at Hopkins Hollow and Rice City, but these were soon read by those who attended, and as only a few were added each year the book reading was small in those days.

In 1885 a public library was started at Summit through the efforts of George B. Parker, Halsey M. Tillinghast and others, and an invitation was extended to Greene and vicinity to use the new library. For many years this library furnished all the book reading for those interested in this kind of reading. As years rolled on and new books came in each year the circulation of the library was helped very materially from this section, visits being made each two weeks and new reading matter secured for several of those who patronized the library from Greene.

Some time in the late nineties an effort was made by Dr. Charles L. Ormsbee to start a new library here, but the time had not yet come for this to be done. Quite a few books were collected but the interest died out. Nothing more was done, and Summit furnished our library books as before.

In 1923, through the efforts of Howard Smith, at that time teacher of the public school here, a small library was started, and an association was formed in 1924 to take over the accounts, and a new set of officers was elected. The first president was Fred A. Brown, Charles H. Arnold, secretary, and Mittie Arnold, treasurer. The primary schoolroom was secured from the town school committee and enough books collected to make State aid possible,—and at the next financial town meeting aid was secured from the town, which, with the private subscriptions, has placed the library on a good working basis. At the present time the new library has several thousand books on its shelves, all in good con-

dition, and a large number of them are new books. Fred W. Arnold has been the very efficient librarian most of the time since the beginning of the library.

At the annual meeting in 1927 a committee was appointed to decide upon the place to build a new library building, the present room being too small,—and to see what arrangements could be made for the land selected to build upon,—and to report later. Nothing except this was done until the next annual meeting in 1928, when the committee made its report. It reported that land for the building proper had been donated to the library association by George Ames, and a strip adjoining had been donated by S. T. Briggs. It was voted to accept these gifts of land. A building committee was appointed to secure funds and plans for the new building. As a result of this the committee,—Miss Mittie Arnold, Mr. Fred A. Brown and Mr. William H. Brown,—have had the foundation and basement completed, the work being done under the supervision of Ethan Moore of Bowens Hill. At this writing the erection of the building is proceeding under the direction of William H. Brown. The new library building will be situated very close to the village and when completed will be an ornament, as well as a public benefit to the community for several miles around. It is hoped to have it completed and dedicated and in use some time in the early fall of this year. This will make the third library in the town,—the other two, located at Anthony, R. I., and Summit, having been used by the public for many years. The Pawtuxet Valley Library at Phenix is serving the extreme east end of the town, being the largest library in the county. All the libraries are doing good work for their several communities and will continue to do so in the years to come.

#### GREENE AND ITS FIRST SECRET SOCIETY

Early in the sixties of the last century the first secret order to be started in Greene and its vicinity was organized at the Hopkins Hollow Church. This was a lodge of the Independent Order of Good Templars, a temperance body which at that time was flourishing throughout the State. Not much is known of its history here, as it existed for only about a year in this vicinity. It

was organized here through the efforts of W. V. Phillips, who was elected the first chief templar, with C. T. Wood as vice chief templar, and a full set of officers. This was a society for both men and women, and many of those living here were members,—but dissension and lack of interest caused the loss of the charter, and the first secret order in this village and community was closed.

#### FIDELITY GRANGE No. 20

The Patrons of Husbandry, or, as it is more widely known, The Grange, was established in the State of Rhode Island in 1887, the first Grange being organized at Wakefield early in that year. This was followed by the installation of Granges in both the northern and the southern counties of the State. Summit No. 15 was the first Grange organized in Kent County, in November, 1887.

In 1888 Dr. C. L. Ormsbee became interested in the Grange, sending for a history of the order and for such other helps as would give him an idea of what the order stood for, and finally took steps with the then State Master, J. G. Peckham of Wakefield, R. I., about the formation of the Grange in Greene and its surrounding community. A Charter was issued and circulated in this community and soon enough members were secured to form a Grange. In the Methodist Church on the evening of May 17, 1889, Fidelity Grange No. 20 was formally instituted by the State Master J. G. Peckham and his suite of State officers. Some forty charter members were present, besides visitors from other Granges. The first Master elected to office was Dr. C. L. Ormsbee,—John Brown, Overseer,—Grace Whitman, Secretary,—Ambrose H. Nicholas, Treasurer,—and the other offices were filled by members of the new Grange.

The first year was a very successful year, the Grange receiving many new members, and holding sessions which were well attended by its members and by visitors from sister Granges. At the next election of officers John Brown was elected Master, and so continued until the end.

The Methodist Church finally objecting to the Grange holding meetings in their building, a change was made to the church at

Hopkins Hollow, and finally a return was made to Matteson Hall under the home of Wm. F. Matteson. This being a basement hall it was not fitted for the meetings of a secret order, but as it was the best that could be had at that time the Grange held its meetings there once in two weeks.

This Grange, while a new thing in this section, prospered,—but finally many of its members moved away, others were suspended because of unpaid dues, the attendance became smaller and smaller,—and it was finally voted to disband and surrender the Charter. The main reason for this action was the lack of a suitable meeting place.

The Grange, while a secret order, is also a social and educational order. It was first started in Washington, D. C., and was designed to include men and their wives, and their sons and daughters at an age capable of understanding the work of the order. The original idea was that farmers only should join the order, but in time other classes of workers were admitted, and today anyone of good moral character may join.

The subordinate Grange consists of four degrees. Then comes the next higher Grange, the Pomona, which is built upon the fifth degree of the order. Then comes the State Grange, which is built upon the sixth degree, which all must have had in order to enter. Then comes the National Grange, which gives the seventh degree, the highest in the Grange. These high degrees may be taken by any member of the subordinate Grange in good standing. Since the going out of Fidelity No. 20, several of its old members have been admitted to membership in the Grange at Moosup Valley, which has had a long record of good work, and is still prospering.

With a good meeting place a new Grange could be formed at Greene, for those now members,—and we believe many new members might be induced to join, so as to make a good working Grange again a certainty in this community.

#### UNITED AMERICAN MECHANICS

In the year 1892 at Sterling, Connecticut, was formed a council of members of the American and Patriotic Order of the United American Mechanics called James Pike Council No. 86, after

James Pike, the founder and builder of the Sterling Centre as it is today.

This council was started through the efforts of the Connecticut State Organizer.

It was organized with forty-two charter members, including two candidates from Greene, Wm. F. Matteson, an old soldier, and S. G. Wood, then working at Sterling for the Sterling Dyeing and Finishing Company, now the United States Finishing Company.

This council had among its first officers S. G. Wood, Recording Secretary, and Wm. F. Matteson, Inside Sentinel.

The candidates were limited to Connecticut residents until the spring of 1895 when, several in this vicinity wishing to join the order, a dispensation was sought of the State Council of Rhode Island, asking that within certain limits residents of Rhode Island be allowed to join the council at Sterling. This dispensation was granted, with the provision that a meeting be held at Greene once in two months or as often as needed to accommodate those joining from this community. In accordance with these provisions meetings were held quite often in Matteson Hall, which had been fitted up by its owner for these meetings. As a consequence some twenty or more from this and surrounding territory became members of the order and several passed through the chairs, becoming Past Councillors, and so able to attend the sessions of their State Council. Many of those who were members at that time have gone to the Great Council above. A few are still living. Among those who joined from this neighborhood were the following:

JOHN BROWN, a Past Councillor

FRED BROWN, son of John Brown

CHARLES T. JORDAN

CURNEL S. BROWN

LUCIUS E. CAPWELL

NELSON G. CAPWELL

EMERSON GREENE

WILLIAM R. POTTER, a Past Councillor

AMOS JORDAN

S. G. WOOD, a Past Councillor

ELISHA TEW of Rice City

ETHAN MOORE of Bowens Hill

WALTER CAHOON

WALTER R. POTTER, a Past Councillor

WILLIAM F. MATTESON

CHARLES H. MATTESON, a Past Councillor

The council was continued for some ten years, when through a fire in the building where their hall was located, they lost all their furniture, regalia and working equipment, and soon after they were forced to disband. It is hoped that at some future time a new council of this great patriotic order may be organized in this community, as every American-born man should be a member of it, on account of its objects and the principles for which it stands. If carried out it will make any man a better citizen in his community.

#### THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

The Order of the Eastern Star is an auxiliary to the Order of Free Masons, and its membership is composed of wives, sisters and daughters of members of the Blue Lodge of Free Masons. Members of the Blue Lodge may also become members in the Order of the Eastern Star, and may hold offices therein. The Order has become quite large in Rhode Island and dates back many years. The Lodge of Eastern Star in Greene had its beginning after the Great War, and its inception and institution here was due to the work of Miss Alice Hutchins, now Mrs. Alice Cargile, who worked hard to get the charter list started, and finally secured enough members to warrant forming a lodge here.

On June 21, 1923, Ionia Lodge was instituted in the Masonic Hall at Greene by the Grand Officers of Rhode Island. The following list of officers were installed for the first year:

ELMER HAVENS, Worthy Patron

ALICE M. HUTCHINS, Worthy Matron

ELsie D. ARNOLD, Associate Matron

HARRIET L. BRIGGS, Recording Secretary

JOHN R. PERKINS, Treasurer

HAZEL C. KRESGE, Inductress

EVA M. DEXTER, Associate Inductress

CHARLES H. ARNOLD, Chaplain  
ETHEL M. HOPKINS, Organist  
EDITH M. BROWN, Adah  
MARION A. JOHNSON, Ruth  
EVA J. OLSON, Esther  
CATHARINE E. HAVENS, Martha  
LETTIE T. BRIGGS, Electa  
CORA M. KRESGE, Marshall  
CARRIE M. DEXTER, Warden  
ERNEST H. OLSON, Sentinel  
GEORGE KRESGE, Trustee  
FRED A. BROWN, Trustee  
WILLIAM R. POTTER, Trustee

Through the hard work of its first presiding officers and the assistance of the officers and members, this Lodge has prospered and its membership has increased until at the present time it is one of the best lodges in the State. Meetings are held monthly and are well attended, many members from sister lodges visiting the meetings. The Eastern Star has given several suppers and entertainments open to the public, which have been very successful. It has been fortunate in having good presiding officers from the beginning. The following have served in that office up to the present time:

ALICE M. HUTCHINS, to December, 1922  
ELSIE M. ARNOLD, to November, 1923  
HAZEL KRESGE, to November, 1924  
MILDRED E. BROWN, to November, 1925  
MARION JOHNSON, to November, 1926  
EMMA F. WAUGH, to November, 1927  
LUCY J. STEVENS, to November, 1928

Catharine Havens is the present presiding officer, whose term will expire November, 1929. The Lodge suffered the loss of one of its Past Worthy Matrons, Mrs. Lucy J. Stevens, who died in the spring of the present year, mourned by all who knew her.

#### ARTHUR B. DEXTER, REPRESENTATIVE

Arthur B. Dexter, while not a representative from Coventry, yet by his second marriage, to Mrs. Alpine E. Tanner, he became

a resident of the village which he had known from early boyhood. He seemed more a resident of Greene than elsewhere.

Mr. Dexter was born in Providence, the son of Henry M. and Mercy Ann Dexter. At the age of seven he lost his father by accident, and he with his mother moved to Greene, living in a tenement owned by Whipple V. Phillips. They afterward moved to Moosup Valley where he lived until the marriage of his mother to Olney Arnold of West Greenwich, when he lived with the family of Olney Arnold for about three years.

During this time he became interested in the Baptist Church near-by, and in December, 1875 became a member of that church.

Returning to Foster he later married Annie Potter and started as a storekeeper and farmer, which he followed for many years, building up a large trade and being very successful. He had a large family of sons and daughters. In 1920 he lost his wife by death and soon after one of his sons. Later he married Mrs. Alpine Tanner, and removed to Greene, where he lived until his death in 1927. He had long since transferred his church membership to Mount Vernon Baptist Church, of which he was a member at his death.

Mr. Dexter was a strong Republican, and as such was elected from Foster to the General Assembly, for several terms, which he enjoyed very much, taking a great interest in all its proceedings, and seldom being absent from its sessions. On all questions he voted with the Republican party.

#### ADELBERT K. GREENE, SENATOR

Adelbert K. Greene was one of the oldest inhabitants of this section at his death. With the exception of a few years at Phenix and Willimantic his entire life was spent in this vicinity. A. K. Greene, as he was always known, was born in a house about a mile north of Greene, and all of his early life was spent in this vicinity.

Early in life he married Mary, daughter of Stephen Bowen, and she was his helpmate almost to the end of his long life.

Mr. Greene was a staunch Jefferson Democrat, and throughout his political life of more than sixty years he was always found true to his party and voted the party ticket in town and state and in presidential elections.

While he was a strong Democrat he was always willing to recognize good men in other parties and believed strongly in majority rule if it was fairly won. He was always highly respected by men of all parties for his straight dealing in all political matters,—and in the early nineties he was honored by a term in the State Senate. He also held several offices in the town for short periods, but he did not care for office. He was a home body who cared more for his home and family than for any political or other honors.

In 1880 Mr. Greene moved to Phenix, R. I., and became connected with the Pawtuxet Valley Gleaner, then published by John H. Campbell as a county weekly paper. In this work he spent several years as printer and collector. He returned to his farm near Greene in 1900 and the rest of his life was spent there.

He had three sons,—Elwis, who died early in this century,—and Emerson and Edward, who are still living. Mr. Greene and his wife passed away within a short time of each other, both having lived many years beyond the three score and ten, having been highly respected as neighbors and friends throughout the entire community where they lived so many years.

#### WILLIAM R. POTTER, REPRESENTATIVE

William R. Potter, son of James J. Potter, was born at Summit in 1879. His father removed soon after to a farm in the western end of Coventry, and erected a new house on what was known as the Dowley place. Here William Potter's early years were spent, working on the farm and obtaining an education. Later he became a school teacher at Bowens Hill. Later he began his life work as a railroad employe, first as a crossing flagman at Lewis Crossing, and finally as station agent at Greene, which position he has filled for the last twenty-eight years to the satisfaction of the railroad company and the large community which he has served. Several years ago he purchased the John Peck place, where he still resides.

Mr. Potter's politics have been strongly Republican, and by the Republican party he has been honored by one term in the House of Representatives and by election to the town committee and the town school committee. He has always taken a deep interest in town and state politics, and has been interested in all improvements in the community as they have come along.

He has one son, Everett Potter, who is employed as motorman by the New England Coach Company, a subsidiary of the New Haven Railroad.

### JOHN Q. KETTLE, REPRESENTATIVE

John Quincy Kettle was born in Eastern Connecticut, and early in life became a sawmill employe. He followed that business for many years. Early in this century he came to Rice City and located on the Ira Andrews place, where he lived until his death in 1927.

Early in his life in Rhode Island he became interested in Rice City Church and its Christian Endeavor Society, and in these he retained his interest until his death. Several years ago he was elected clerk of the church, and he had also been president of the Christian Endeavor Society and superintendent of the Sunday School.

Mr. Kettle was a strong Democrat, and as such he was elected to represent the town for two years and was slated again but was defeated.

He left a large family to mourn his going, and left a place in the community which has not been filled.

### EDWARD EVERETT ARNOLD

Edward E. Arnold, son of Nathaniel and Lydia Vaughn Arnold, was born on December 17, 1853, in the farmhouse which was owned by his father and which was to be the beginning of the extensive "Arnold Farms" of today.

His early schooling was received in the old schoolhouse near-by, which was then called District No. 3, under such teachers as Joseph Tillinghast and others who taught the winter terms. Later he attended East Greenwich Academy, and Eastman Business College at Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

At an early age Mr. Arnold set out to make his own way in life, and like many other of the country youths of that day he went to Providence. He secured employment with Mason, Chapin & Company, wholesale dealers in chemicals, drugs, dyes and

painters' supplies. Mr. Arnold started on small pay and long hours, but by attention to business and a desire to learn he was later advanced to shipping clerk, and afterward to bookkeeper, a position which he held for several years. As time rolled on changes were made in the company and Mr. Arnold was advanced to a junior partnership,—and finally became the head of the firm, the name of which was changed to Arnold, Hoffman & Company. The business was now so enlarged that branch offices were set up in several other large cities. Mr. Arnold also became president of The Mathieson Alkali Works, Saltville, Virginia. In the course of his occupation he had occasion to cross the Atlantic Ocean sixty-six times.

On January 3, 1889, Mr. Arnold married Miss Mittie Hodges of Peoria, Illinois, who was a true and helpful partner to him throughout the years of their married life. Six children were born to them, of whom five were living at the time of his death,—Mittie, Dorothy, Edwin H., Henry N. and Elizabeth.

Soon after his marriage Mr. Arnold began to spend his summers at the old homestead where he was born, and this custom he followed as long as he lived. At about the same time he began the improvements on the old farm which have made it the best farm in western Coventry. Later he began to buy farms adjoining until at the present time "Arnold Farms" include a large territory which surrounds the original farm. Much of it is timber land, which Mr. Arnold loved to see growing.

Just before the World War Mr. Arnold built and started what is known as the Laboratory, about a mile northwest of Greene on the Buckshorn River.

In politics Mr. Arnold was always a staunch Republican, and as such he became very much interested in town, state and national politics. In every election he did his best, and always used his influence with his neighbors toward electing whomever was nominated by his party. He also became deeply interested in the financial welfare of the town. At one time the town had become very deeply in debt and after much thought Mr. Arnold suggested a way out, which if it had been accepted would have saved the town much money and would have made its credit good for the future, but this was not accepted by the town. Mr. Arnold later

became president of the town council and through his influence and help the new macadam highways began to appear, and the splendid roads of western Coventry stand as a monument to his tireless work and interest to benefit the town. It took patience and much persuasion to accomplish this great work, and many were opposed to it at the beginning, fearing high taxes,—but Mr. Arnold lived to hear these same men thank him for what he had done. Mr. Arnold foresaw that the automobile had come to stay and would be the common way of travel, and he provided better roads for them, and made possible State help and State ownership, thus relieving the town of miles of highways which for generations it had had to keep in repair.

Mr. Arnold was elected to represent the town in the State Senate, which he did with great credit to himself and benefit to the town.

Mr. Arnold took a deep interest in the soldiers of the Civil War. He had lost two brothers in that war, and for many years he was never absent from Memorial Services at Hopkins Hollow held for the soldiers who lie in that cemetery. For many years he was on the committee which arranged for these annual services which remembered those who died on the field and who have passed on since.

A good friend and neighbor has left us, whom we hope to meet in the Great Beyond, where there is no parting and where Love reigns supreme.

#### AMBROSE H. NICHOLAS, SENATOR

Ambrose H. Nicholas, our present State Senator, was born on the farm owned by the Nicholas family for several generations, located in the extreme west end of the town of Coventry. He is the son of Caleb Ray Nicholas. His whole life has been spent on the home farm, raising farm produce. For many years he sold his milk in Providence, delivering it at Greene every morning in the year.

He was elected Senator in 1912 and served one year. This was the year of the great United States Senatorial contest between S. P. Colt and Ex-Governor Wetmore, which lasted almost the entire term, and resulted in Governor Wetmore's election.

Mr. Nicholas has been a strong Republican all his life, and has always voted with that party in all elections, both town and state.

Quite early in life he married Miss Ida M. Briggs, daughter of Giles and Mary Briggs. They have two daughters,—Ethel M., who married Jesse Johnson of Anthony, R. I., and Nina B., who lives on the farm.

Mr. Nicholas was again elected Senator in 1928, and so will attend the session of 1929 and 1930. He has held several district and town offices, which he has always filled to the satisfaction of all.

### RICE CITY CHURCH

The Rice City Christian Church had its beginning in 1815, through the work of Rev. James Varnum, a preacher who came from the West, unknown here, but he soon made friends, and through his efforts a revival of religion took place which affected the whole community for miles around. Later a church building was erected a short distance north of where the present church stands. We have no record of how long Mr. Varnum stayed, but we do know that a large church was formed, which took in a community several miles square, and from which the present churches at Clayville, Moosup Valley, Mount Vernon and Summit were formed. The Line Church, so called, was formed by several of the members of the Greene Methodist Church and the church at Hopkins Hollow was also built by this Society as a branch for the accommodation of those in the south part of the parish. This church has had as pastors such men as James Burlingame, who served it for forty years; Rev. Caleb Tillinghast, afterward for many years pastor of the Broad Street Christian Church, Providence, and a teacher in Stanford University, New York; Rev. Mason Hopkins, Rev. Preston B. Hopkins, Rev. Albert Blanchard, Rev. George W. Kennedy, afterward pastor of Moosup Valley Church; Rev. James Peirce; Rev. Fred C. Buker, now a pastor of Knotty Oak Baptist Church; Rev. Harry Filmer, who now lives in Florida; and many others for a longer or shorter period have served this church.

The church has had two special revivals under Rev. Lizzie Haley, whose portrait adorns the wall back of the pulpit. The first revival was in 1882, when Miss Haley was a young woman. She was a famous preacher and crowds were present each night and several members were added to the church through this effort. Some 15 or 16 years later Rev. Miss Haley came a second time to Rice City and held meetings for forty nights, and as a result some thirty-five new members joined the church by baptism and by letters from other churches. She stayed for several weeks after, with the intention of becoming pastor later, but this was not to be. She went to Cape Cod for a rest, was taken sick and died there, much to the disappointment of Rice City Church, and beloved by all who knew her.

Several members joined the church during Mr. Bunker's pastorate and several during Mr. Filmer's stay.

About 1835 the present church building was erected and still stands as a landmark to be seen by those who pass it from time to time, and as a memorial to the hundreds who have served the church faithfully during their lives here and who have gone on to their reward.

In connection with this church, composed of members of this church and of others, a society of the Christian Endeavor was formed in 1895, which has had a continuous existence since that time. This society has had charge of the evening services, with a few exceptions, all these years, and has been heartily supported by the pastors and by the community. Its officers have been divided between the older and younger members and for the past few years has been in a flourishing condition as a community service. Charles Brennan is the present president; Hazel Dutton, secretary; Louis Andrews, treasurer.

#### THE AMERICAN CRANBERRY BOG

The American Cranberry Bog is located about three miles south of Greene near the town line of West Greenwich, and work on this cranberry bog was first started in the fifties of the last century by Abiel T. Sampson & Co. Mr. Sampson was a resident of Fruit Hill in what was then North Providence. It is not known

how he first became interested in cranberry raising, but in the late fifties work was started on this new bog by digging a long ditch east from what was then known as Beaver Dam through the centre of the swamp, and then cross ditches, once in so far, north and south, the entire length of the bog. Sand was drawn on and spread, and vines brought and set out. Mr. Sampson employed several of the neighbors in the community, with their teams, to do this work. In the early sixties a house was built on the road going north from Narrowlane, and also a small cranberry house for drying the cranberries after they were picked in the fall. One great danger to the cranberry crops on this bog was the early frosts which came very suddenly some years.

The early crops were not large, but Mr. Sampson kept enlarging and improving his bog until it became the largest cranberry bog in the state. For twenty years, through the sixties and seventies of the last century, cranberry time, as it was called in those days, was a busy scene, commencing usually the last week in August and lasting through September. It gave an opportunity to men, women and children to earn enough to help out in the coming winter, and in those days many families depended on cranberry picking for their winter supplies.

During Mr. Sampson's ownership of nearly or quite thirty years all of the crops were picked by hand. Only in an emergency, such as danger of frost, would he allow any to be raked.

The pickers were brought to the bog on the opening day from as far west as Oneco, Connecticut,—from Rice City, Bowens Hill, Greene, Summit, and throughout West Greenwich, from Escoheag to Weaver's Hill. Several hundred have been on this bog day after day from 7 A. M. to 5 P. M., with a few minutes for lunch at noon. Mr. Sampson had several overseers who had charge of the pickers to see that they did their work well. The pickers usually worked in pairs, and the picking usually commenced on the north side and went east up to the large ditch in the middle of the bog, and then they were carried around on the south side and again picked to the big ditch east to the end. Each two pickers were lined off,—the lines, some 25 or 30 feet long, were attached to a ring which was thrown toward the ditch. The overseer was responsible for the lines being thrown straight and fair to all.

Two bushel baskets were furnished each picker with his name on a tag, and at the end of each day the cranberries were carried to the cranberry house and measured and credit given on a book. Two cents a quart was paid, and a bushel or a bushel and a half was the usual day's work,—although some were able to pick two bushels or more,—but there were not many able to do this, taking the picking as it came. It was hard work, as many now living can testify, but it made a chance to earn money, the all important thing in those days.

In 1867 a new cranberry house was built, 100 by 40, with two stories and a basement. There were a few years when there was a bumper crop, and the new cranberry house and the old house were filled with the crates of cranberries coming for the market. But some years frost ruined the crop and this meant but a few days' picking and less money.

Some of the overseers of those days were Rev. John Tillinghast, Halsey M. Tillinghast, Daniel Tillinghast, Henry C. Tillinghast,—and there were others whose names have been forgotten.

At the death of Mr. Sampson the bog was owned by several parties who carried on for a few years, and then, owing to a mortgage foreclosed, it came into the hands of J. B. McCrillis, and was taken over by his son, Elisha McCrillis, who plowed up the best part of the bog, putting it into a grass farm. This not proving successful the bog lay idle for several years, when a new firm from Boston took over the bog and installed John M. Burke as manager. Mr. Burke had a life experience in cranberry raising and under his direction extensive improvements were made. New dams were built, new vines set out, new ditches dug, and new ways of securing the crop were employed. Today instead of hundreds only a few are needed to harvest the crops. A number of years ago the large cranberry house was burned down and later a new one was built on the same site.

Following Mr. Burke, Mr. Frank Gorsline, Jr. had charge of this cranberry bog for several years, and then resigned to go into other business. For nearly thirty-five years Thomas Gaul had charge of the work and lived on old Letzen place, just over the line in West Greenwich. This was his home until his death. His wife Mary lived there for several years after his death, and then went to Providence where she died early in this century.

## FREEMASONRY IN GREENE AND VICINITY

The order of Freemasons came into life in the west end of the town of Coventry through the issuing of a dispensation by the Grand Master of the State of Rhode Island to a number of applicants in or near Rice City early in the last century,—on May 27, 1816,—to Thomas O. H. Carpenter as master, Stephen M. Pearce as senior warden, Archibald Colgrove as junior warden, Jeremiah McGregor as treasurer, Cyril C. Lyon as secretary; Isaac Gallup, senior deacon; Obed Perkins, junior deacon; Nathaniel Wilbour, tyler and sentinel. These, with others, were duly given a charter, to be known as Hamilton Lodge No. 15. On October 19, 1817 they were duly installed in office at a special communication held probably in the first church building at Rice City. Grand Master John Carlisle was present and presided over the body, and the lodge was duly instituted on that day. Rev. Barnabas Bates gave the address on this great day for the new lodge of Freemasons in the west end of the state.

The regular meetings, or communications, as they are called in this order, were held in a hall built over the residence of J. S. McGregor located a half mile west of Rice City on what is now Plainfield Pike. This hall, then the property of J. S. McGregor, son of the former owner, burned down, with all its contents, in 1890. Meetings were held in this hall from 1847 until a few years later, when becoming dissatisfied with the lodge rooms and other matters, the lodge moved to Foster Centre and finally to Clayville where it has since been located. So this first attempt to locate a lodge of Masons in the west end of Coventry was ended, and it was many years later before another lodge was formed, this time to stay until the present. The history of this later lodge follows.

## IONIC LODGE No. 28 OF F. A. A. M.

Many years rolled around after the institution of Hamilton Lodge in the west part of Coventry in 1817, and during these years the order of Freemasons, together with other secret orders, had met with great opposition, and the laws in some states had been invoked against them, making it a statutory offence to belong to orders whose secret work was not known to the public. As a consequence many lodges were forced to disband and lose their

charters,—and others, while keeping their charters, held very few meetings. In many states the order was looked upon as a menace to society because of the fact that their work was done in secret, and with doors closed to all but those initiated into the rites and ceremonies of this very ancient order. But as years passed this feeling of opposition became less and the order took on new life and energy and is today without doubt the largest and most flourishing order in the world.

Some of the residents of Greene and the surrounding territory had placed their applications with Manchester Lodge No. 12, located at Anthony some twelve miles east of Greene, and had been accepted and initiated into that lodge some time previous to the starting of what was to be known as Ionic Lodge No. 28, located in the village of Greene. There were several reasons for their action in starting a new lodge in the west end of the town. The first was the distance from their lodge, for we must remember that means of travel around 1870 were not like those of 1929. It took from two to three hours for members to reach Anthony, some fourteen miles by way of Bowen's Hill. There were no trains evenings,—and the members spent four or five hours in travel on the highway in order to attend the meetings. The second reason was that Greene was at that time a flourishing village and the new lodge would have a large territory from which to draw membership. So for these and other reasons, Whipple V. Phillips, at that time a very prominent man in the village, and some fifteen others, made an application to the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island for a dispensation to start a new lodge of Freemasons in Greene to be known as Ionic Lodge No. 28, and this dispensation was granted January 15, 1870 by Grand Master Thomas A. Doyle. On March 15, 1870 the first regular communication was held, with Whipple V. Phillips as master, Warren M. Tillinghast as senior warden, William R. Carter as junior warden, and the other appointive officers. It is not certain where this meeting was held, but probably in the small hall which afterward became their home, for many years known as the Small Hall, later, and now, owned by Sanford T. Briggs.

On January 7th, 1871, the lodge was duly constituted in due and ancient form, the services again being held in the Christian Church at Rice City, this time in the present church building.

Grand Master Thomas A. Doyle was present and performed the work of constituting the new lodge. The then Grand Chaplain was also present, and delivered the oration upon this great event, which he was fully able to successfully perform. Dwight R. Adams of Manchester Lodge was also present and made an address. He was all his life much loved by all who knew him as teacher, superintendent of schools, and other officers of the town and community.

The first meeting place was over what was then A. P. Taber's store, but in 1886 the present very comfortable lodge rooms were leased and fitted for the permanent use of the lodge. These rooms were publicly dedicated by Grand Master Rev. William C. Ackley. He was assisted by Past Grand Master Lyman Klapp, who delivered the oration on Freemasonry. Past Master Dwight R. Adams was again present and installed the officers elected for that year in a very impressive charge to the officers elect and to the members and their friends who were present. So this hall became the permanent home of Ionic Lodge No. 28, and all of its work since that time has been performed in this hall, which is now used jointly by this lodge and its sister lodge of Eastern Star, Ionia Lodge No. 17, which was instituted some years ago and which has had a very creditable record.

The last public record of Ionic Lodge was published by Past State Master H. W. Rugg, and at that time the lodge had a membership of about forty. The list of officers for that year, 1891, was as follows:

<i>Worthy Master</i> .....	SAMUEL H. BOWEN
<i>Senior Warden</i> .....	HENRY D. DIXON
<i>Junior Warden</i> .....	GEORGE B. PARKER
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	E. L. BOSS
<i>Secretary</i> .....	A. P. TABER
<i>Chaplain</i> .....	REV. G. W. KENNEDY
<i>Senior Deacon</i> .....	E. E. SALISBURY
<i>Junior Deacon</i> .....	CHARLES CAPWELL
<i>Senior Steward</i> .....	J. D. HILLARY
<i>Junior Steward</i> .....	A. A. KENNEDY
<i>Marshal</i> .....	GARDINER WILCOX
<i>Sentinel</i> .....	W. N. DEMING
<i>Music Director</i> .....	GORDON B. PARKER
<i>Tyler</i> .....	JOSEPH T. HOPKINS

Since that time this lodge, like all orders, has had its ups and downs, but there have always been a few who have held on and by their work and attendance have kept the lodge alive. There has been a long line of past masters, from all walks of life and from all kinds of business.

In the course of the fifty-nine years in which this lodge has been in existence several hundred must have entered its portals and been initiated into its mysteries. Many of these who became faithful members and officers have left this lodge for the Great Lodge Beyond, where all may enter who have the correct password, never to go out.

During the World War and soon after, a revival of interest came to Ionic Lodge, and through this revived interest many of the younger members of the community applied for membership, and were accepted and duly initiated into the three degrees of the Blue Lodge. Many of these new members have been appointed and elected to the several offices and have finally reached the Master's chair. With a few exceptions the worthy masters have been young men, and this seems likely to be the case for some years to come. The lodge is now in the best financial and numerical condition of its long life, owning its own hall and having made many improvements. Its home is equal to many in more thickly settled communities, and the lodge bids fair to prosper for many years to come.

The lodge has had a long and worthy line of past masters from 1870 to the present time, some of them serving more than one term, and in a few cases being re-elected several times, showing that their work was well done,—but in late years one term of office has been the rule. Joseph T. Hopkins had the high honor of being elected at three different times and held the mastership for eight years, an honor seldom gained in any order. Joseph D. Hillary, of Foster, was also re-elected after an interval.

Following is the list of thirty-nine members who have held the high office of master in this lodge:

WHIPPLE V. PHILLIPS.....	1870 and 1871.....	Dead
WARNER H. TILLINGHAST.....	1872 and 1873.....	Dead
GEORGE K. TYLER, of Foster..	1874.....	Dead
GARDINER R. WILCOX.....	1875 and 1876.....	Dead

WILLIAM H. JORDAN.....	1877.....	Dead
JOSEPH T. HOPKINS.....	1878 and 1879.....	Dead
EDWARD E. ARNOLD.....	1880 and 1881.....	Dead
GEORGE T. DORRANCE.....	1882 and 1883.....	Dead
JOSEPH T. HOPKINS.....	1884 to 1886.....	Dead
ALVEN A. KENNEDY.....	1887	
J. D. HILLARY.....	1888.....	Dead
AMASA P. TABER.....	1889	
SAMUEL H. BOWEN.....	1890.....	Dead
GEORGE B. PARKER.....	1891	
JOSEPH D. HILLARY.....	1892.....	Dead
JOSEPH T. HOPKINS.....	1893 to 1895.....	Dead
JOB S. CARPENTER.....	1896 to 1898.....	Dead
BENJAMIN F. HALL.....	1899 to 1901	
ELMER A. SALISBURY.....	1902	
ELMER J. RATHBUN.....	1903	
EZRA K. PARKER.....	1904 and 1905.....	Dead
ALBERT A. WHALEY.....	1906 and 1907	
BYRON H. NIXON.....	1908 and 1909	
HERBERT A. HOPKINS.....	1910	
DANIEL R. BILLINGTON.....	1911 and 1912.....	Dead
CHARLES T. HALL.....	1913	
DANIEL H. ROSE.....	1914	
GEORGE R. FISKE.....	1915	
FRANK M. HALL.....	1916.....	Dead
JOHN M. COLE.....	1917	
WILLIAM E. TEFFT.....	1918	
HORACE A. CARPENTER.....	1919	
WILLIAM R. POTTER.....	1920	
JESSE FINLEY.....	1921	
FRED A. BROWN.....	1922	
ALEXANDER P. BATES.....	1923	
ERNEST S. BRIGGS.....	1924	
ELMER A. HAVENS.....	1925	
FRANK T. GORSLINE, JR.....	1926	
CHARLES H. ARNOLD.....	1927	
EVERETT M. BLANCHARD.....	1928	
FRED J. KENNEDY.....	1929	

Of these past masters of Ionic Lodge No. 28 some fourteen have passed on to meet the Great Master of all the earth. Most if not all of the funerals have been conducted by the brethren whom they loved so well while here, with the very impressive burial ritual used by this order.

Besides those who have received the highest honors this lodge can give, there have been many others through the years who have been faithful members of the lodge, and to them is due the good work done by the lodge in the community. Among those of the older members was Alexander Peck, who for many years never missed a meeting of his lodge, content to see others hold the high positions while he performed the smaller tasks. At his death, according to his wish, the services were held in the Masonic Hall, and he was laid away by his brethren whom he loved so much.

Rev. George W. Kennedy was another of the older brothers who seldom missed a communication and never aspired to any of the high offices, but he also was content to work where he could do the most good.

Caleb Ray Nicholas was another of the early workers who was faithful to the obligations he had taken until he left here for the Higher and Better Lodge.

These are only a few of many who have borne the heat of the day, and through whose work Ionic Lodge is what it is today. Ionic Lodge, as well as all other lodges, has had its dark days as well as its bright days, but in this year of 1929 the outlook is bright for a prosperous future. With several young men to guide it in the high chair in the east and with a full corps of officers to help in the work of the lodge it should be able to keep to the front for many years to come. If all work together for this end success is sure for Ionic Lodge for many years to come. So be it.

HOPKINS HOLLOW CEMETERY  
AND  
HOPKINS HOLLOW CEMETERY ASSOCIATION  
FORMED TO PROTECT THE LOTS AND ENLARGE THE CEMETERY

It is believed that the first steps toward making a cemetery in Hopkins Hollow were taken in the year 1840, when a deed was given by George Hopkins, deeding land to be used as a burial place.

George Hopkins then owned the land on the south and west of the land deeded for the cemetery. The north side, fronting the highway, and the east end, were next to land owned by Nathaniel Arnold.

Some time after, a four foot wall was built, enclosing the cemetery, and burying lots were taken by most of the settlers who lived within a radius of a mile or so. When the cemetery was laid out it was probably thought that it would be large enough for themselves and their families and those who would come after them. This was some fifteen years before the railroad came through, which was to make such a great change in the community and was to put the village of Greene on the map and to bring many families from other states and from other parts of this state who were to settle here for many years.

Before 1840 there had been no large cemetery nearer than Plain Meeting House on the south, Oneco on the west, and Maple Root on the east. Most of the older settlers set aside a place on their farms as a burial spot, and so we find a few graves on many of the old farms through the country, most of them neglected, and many of them hard to find on account of the brush and woods which have grown up. The older citizens in this community can remember when there were but few graves in Hopkins Hollow Cemetery, but following the Civil War several new graves were made, and during the next forty years most of the generation which had seen the cemetery started had been buried here or elsewhere. With the beginning of the new century it was seen that something must be done toward enlarging the cemetery grounds to provide room for those who wished to be buried there. Most of the lots originally were large enough for their owners and their posterity, but some had sold part of their original lots to others, and in time it was plainly evident that more land would be needed to accommodate all who desired to be buried there. So more land was given on the east end and cleared for burial lots and this was all taken up in a few years. Again the question came up as to more land, and also the question of the care of the lots already in the cemetery. Some of these lots had been well cared for by the successors of those who had gone from us, while other lots were totally uncared for and were allowed to grow up to brush and grass and weeds, no one seeming to care, and on one having

any authority to change matters. Under these conditions it was thought advisable to form a company or association to have charge of the cemetery grounds, to clean up all the lots needing it, and to see that all lots were kept in good condition, as well as to take up the question of enlarging the cemetery grounds.

Senator Edward E. Arnold, who had a deep interest in the cemetery from the fact that his father's family was buried there, was the leader in the movement toward forming an association of those interested. A meeting was held on January 8, 1922, at which the following persons were present:

WAYNE H. WHITMAN	MRS. JOSEPH T. HOPKINS
CHARLES E. CAPWELL	MRS. BOWEN MATTESON
EBEN A. BRIGGS	WILLIAM H. JORDAN
HANNAH F. BROWN	FLORENCE E. CAPWELL
AMBROSE H. NICHOLAS	NELSON G. CAPWELL
IDA M. NICHOLAS	SANFORD T. BRIGGS
EDWARD E. ARNOLD	SQUIRE G. WOOD
EVERETT E. HOPKINS	EDWIN H. ARNOLD
ETHEL M. HOPKINS	FRANK A. POTTER

HARRY E. WATSON

and several others.

Wayne H. Whitman was elected chairman of the meeting and Edwin H. Arnold was elected secretary.

An act of incorporation was presented, and after a very free and full discussion of its parts and as a whole, upon motion of Edward E. Arnold, seconded by S. G. Wood, the act was voted accepted and adopted, and the presiding officer was directed to secure its passage at the session of the General Assembly then being held at Providence. The meeting was then adjourned until again lawfully called together according to the act to be passed.

On August 13, 1922, at 2 P. M. standard time, the first annual meeting of the Hopkins Hollow Cemetery Association was held in the church, the following members being present:

WILLIAM H. JORDAN	EBEN A. BRIGGS
EDWARD E. ARNOLD	ETHEL M. HOPKINS
A. H. NICHOLAS	SQUIRE G. WOOD
CHARLES E. CAPWELL	MITTIE H. ARNOLD
NELSON G. CAPWELL	EVERETT E. HOPKINS

Wayne H. Whitman acted as president pro tem, and the following officers were elected to serve one year:

<i>President,</i>	WILLIAM H. JORDAN
<i>Vice-President,</i>	EDWARD E. ARNOLD
<i>Secretary,</i>	ETHEL M. HOPKINS
<i>Treasurer,</i>	AMBROSE H. NICHOLAS
<i>Trustees,</i>	<i>above ex-officio and</i> EVERETT E. HOPKINS EBEN A. BRIGGS NELSON G. CAPWELL

It was voted to accept the act of incorporation and to adopt a set of by-laws which had been prepared.

It was then voted to adjourn for one year unless meeting should be called by the chair during that time.

Since that date three of the incorporators have died.

Annual meetings have been held at the time specified in the by-laws, officers have been duly elected, reports for the year have been received and accepted.

Upon the death of William H. Jordan, Henry N. Arnold, younger son of Edward E. Arnold, was elected president, which position he still holds. Edwin H. Arnold is vice-president. Miss Nina B. Nicholas has been secretary for the last few years, and Ambrose H. Nicholas has been treasurer from the beginning until the present time. The trustees have been unchanged.

One of the objects for which the corporation was formed, that of making the cemetery larger, is now in progress. The north wall has been moved some thirty feet farther north, making room for a new driveway and several new lots. The whole cemetery has been cleaned up and now presents a very satisfactory appearance. The work has been highly approved by all, with one or two exceptions, who seem to fail to appreciate what has been accomplished. By the time of the next annual meeting it is hoped that this great improvement will have been brought to a successful finish, and that Hopkins Hollow Cemetery will be one of the best cared for in the state.



History of the “South Farm” now  
Part of the “Arnold Farms”

The Nichols Family

The Wood Family

1929



*By*  
SQUIRE G. WOOD

JONATHAN NICHOLS

WELCOME

ELIPHA

M.

JEREMIAH S. McGREGOR

M.

SQUIRE G. WOOD

\*See *Thomas Wood Chart*

JOHN

JEREMIAH S., JR.

M.

JANE

M.

DR. P. K. HUTCHINSON

NO C.

JOHN H.

FLORENCE  
M.  
HENRY JOHNSTONE

DIANA

M.

BETSY M.  
THOMAS W. BROWN

BESSIE A.

ANNIE M.

WILLIAM H.

EDWARD L.

NELLIE

BERTHA

JOB S.

EVA

M.

HALSEY M. TILLINGHAST

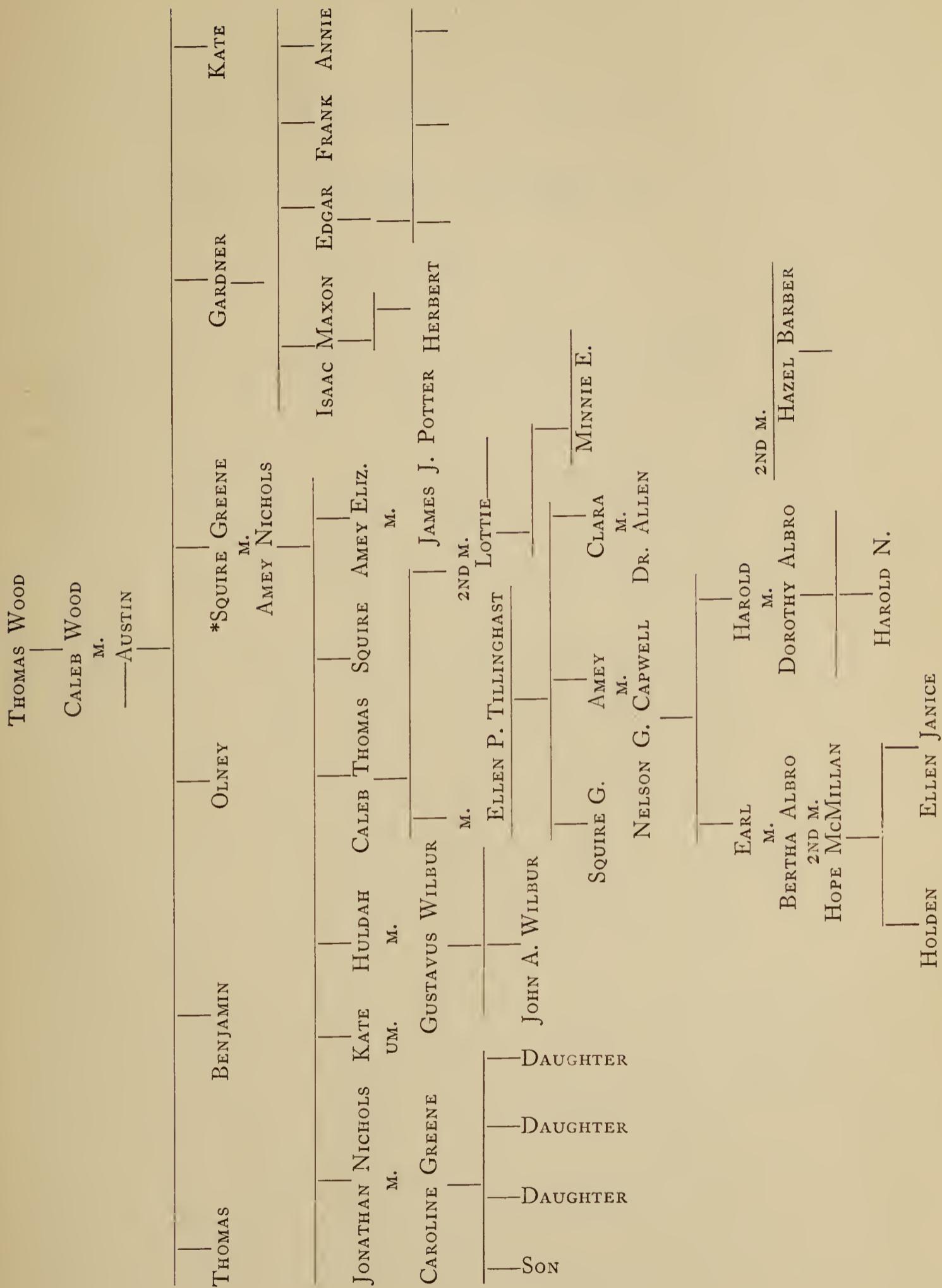
SUSIE

NELLIE

M.

CHARLES H.

REV. ROLLO HUNT





# The Nichols Family The Wood Family



I am tempted to give a short history of the place which for ten and a half years was my home, and which, if it could talk, could tell a great deal of sorrow and of joy.

The first house over there was built probably late in the eighteenth century, and stood just over the brook, west of the present house. It was a small house. I can remember seeing where the cellar stood, when I was a boy.

The present house was built about 1815 by Jonathan Nichols, his son Welcome Nichols, and my grandfather who was then 18 years old, having been born May 8, 1797, and this being his first job as a carpenter apprentice. I have heard him tell how all those large timbers were cut down and hewn in the woods and drawn by oxen to be used in framing the house. All the framing and all the shingles were hand made, and the boards were also sawed by hand. The frame was pinned together by wooden pegs driven into holes bored for them,—all done by hand.

In this house my grandfather was married in 1820 to my grandmother, Amy Nichols, and there their first child, Jonathan Nichols Wood, was born, in 1821. Their first daughter, Kate, was born there in the early 20's. Then three children were born who died in infancy and are buried on the place. I am not certain whether the next son, C. T. Wood, was born there or not,—but Huldah, the second daughter to live, was born there, and so was Squire G., for whom I was

*Squire Greene  
Wood  
Amy Nichols  
Wood*

*Elizabeth  
Wood*

named. Squire G. Wood, when 22 years old, was killed in a sawmill which stood near where the cranberry house now stands. He was the first of the family to be buried in the cemetery at Hopkins Hollow, in December, 1860. *Elizabeth*, the youngest child, was born at Anthony in 1845, but all of the early lives were spent in the old homestead. My grandfather and grandmother spent about thirty years together there, moving soon after 1860 to Greene, to the new home, which Sanford T. Briggs now owns.

*"South Farm"*

As to the "South Farm\*", I am not certain whether Mr. Arnold's family owns the original place as Jonathan Nichols sold it to my grandfather. The original farm lay in two towns, West Greenwich and Coventry, the highway being the town line between the two. The original farm was toward the east to the road running from the bridge near where Bud Gorsline now lives to the corner at the top of the hill to go west to my old home,—but some time in the late 50's of the last century my grandsire sold the east lot from the fence just east of the woodhouse to the Narrowlane Road to the American Cranberry Bog Company, then owned by Abiel Sampson Hodges & Company. This lot when I was a boy was used for a cow pasture by those living at the white house near the bridge. This was on the Coventry side. On the West Greenwich side it went much further east, nearly half way to the Lora Gaul place. On the south it went to the Dr. Wilcox place, now owned by Charles S. Brown, also to the Waite place now owned by Charles S. Brown. On the south and west by land of Daniel Tillinghast, now owned by Mrs. L. A. Tillinghast. Farther west by Wm. Reed,—and on the north by Ambrose Hopkins, now owned by Ambrose Nicholas, and by the Arnold land across the river, the river being the boundary line on the north side.

Some time in the late 50's or early 60's of the last century my grandfather sold to Whipple V. Phillips,

\* The "South Farm," his ancestral home, was an outstanding example of New England architecture.

who was then starting a sawmill at Greene, what was called the Bennett lot and Johnston lot for the lumber in them. There was very heavy pine, and this was cut down and drawn to Greene and sawed into box boards. Several years later my grandsire sold all he owned on the West Greenwich side, with the exception of about an acre, containing the barn and shed, to William Reed of Sprout Mill. About five acres was bought by my father for a trout pond, which was exempt.

In 1871 all the land on the north side in Coventry was sold to the Waite Brothers, who owned the place where Charlie Brown has his home,—and so the S. G. Wood place passed out of the name, never to come back into the family again. Since then it has been sold and resold a number of times, until finally it came into the hands of Edward E. Arnold.

It may be of interest to note that *Jonathan Nichols* was a soldier in the Revolution, 1775 to 1881, and rose to be a captain in the regular army. Because of this my grandmother, *Amey N. Wood*, in 1895 was made a Daughter of the Revolution, and continued until her death in 1899.

I hope that some marking may be made of Jonathan Nichols' record in the Revolution.

*Jonathan Nichols* had four children,—three girls and one boy,—who lived to grow up,—*Welcome*, *Elipha*, *Amey* and *Diana*.

The son, *Welcome Nichols*, never married, and died some time in his 40's.

*Elipha Nichols* married *Jeremiah McGregor, Sr.*, who lived in a house on the north side of the road from Greene to Oneco, near where John H. Place now lives. The house where they lived was burned down. They had three children, *John*, *J. S. Jr.*, and *Jane*. *Dr. John McGregor*, of Phenix and Providence, was killed by a dummy engine and coal car at the corner of Dorrance and Weybosset Streets, Providence, in 1869 or 1870,—

*Jonathan  
Nichols*

*Amey Nichols  
Wood*

*Jonathan  
Nichols*

*Welcome  
Nichols*

*Elipha  
Nichols  
McGregor*

*John  
McGregor*

*J. S.  
McGregor, Jr.*  
*John H.  
McGregor*  
*Florence  
McGregor*  
*Johnstone*  
*Jane  
McGregor*  
*Hutchinson*

*Amey Nichols  
Wood*  
*Diana  
Nichols  
Johnson*  
*Amanda  
Johnson  
Carpenter*

*Eva  
Carpenter  
Tillinghast*

*Susie  
Tillinghast*  
*Nellie  
Tillinghast*  
*Hunt*  
*Charles H.  
Tillinghast*  
*Job S.  
Carpenter*  
*Bertha  
Carpenter*

*Lydia  
Johnson  
Slocum*

*Nellie  
Slocum*  
*Edward L.  
Slocum*

and had no children. *J. S. McGregor, Jr.*, is buried in the family lot near their old home,—and had two children,—*John H.*, now dead,—and *Florence*, who married *Henry Johnstone*, and lives at Fall River. *Jane McGregor* married *Dr. P. K. Hutchinson*, a doctor between 1861 and 1865, who lived until his death at Rice City, in a house which Rev. Harvey Filmer afterward owned. They had no children.

*Amey Nichols* was my grandmother.

*Diana Nichols* married *Thomas Johnson* of Phenix, in what was then Warwick, now West Warwick. They had three daughters,—*Amanda*, *Lydia* and *Betsy M.*

*Amanda Johnson* married *Charles F. Carpenter*, who lived in West Warwick for many years, a half mile north of Sharpstreet, so-called, and whose place is divided by the new Victory Highway. They had three children,—*Eva*, *Job S.*, and *Bertha*. *Eva Carpenter*, in 1871, married *Halsey M. Tillinghast*, who lived at Summit about fifteen years, and died several years ago, leaving *Eva* with three children,—*Susie*, now dead,—*Nellie*, who married *Rev. Rollo Hunt* and now lives in Brooklyn, N. Y.,—and *Charles H.*, a professor in Columbia College, New York. *Job S. Carpenter* became a lawyer, and later in life Clerk of the Superior Court at East Greenwich. He was for several years counsel for *Edward E. Arnold* and for his firm. He died early in this century. *Bertha Carpenter* was born at Sharpstreet, and now lives in New York, a school teacher in that city.

*Lydia Johnson* married *William V. Slocum* of Phenix, a school teacher, Judge of Probate Court, and representative to General Assembly. He died about ten years ago. He came to Hopkins Hollow Cemetery as a speaker on Decoration Sundays for many years. They had one daughter, *Nellie*, who died early in life,—and a son, *Edward L.*, who died about a year before his father. *Lydia Johnson Slocum* died last year, in her ninetieth year.

*Betsy M. Johnson* married *Thomas W. Brown* of Phenix, and Moosup, Connecticut, where they died and are buried. They left three children,—*William H.*, *Annie M.* and *Bessie A.* The two daughters live in Providence, and the son at Torrington, Connecticut.

This completes the list of children of Jonathan Nichols and their descendants. As most of these had no children the line will run out. Although my grandmother Amey has several descendants, yet the Nichols name will be gone.

The "South Farm," as already stated, had been sold off piece by piece until only the north side was left and that was sold to the Waite Brothers, who lived where Charlie S. Brown now lives. They never moved to the "South Farm," and it was not occupied for several years. The three brothers, and their sister who kept house for them, all died within a year,—and to settle the estate the place was sold, in 1887, to Albert W. Aldrich of Providence, who moved onto it and lived there for about ten years, and moved to Greene, living there until about a year before his death, when he went to Oakland Beach, where he died. He sold the place to Daniel Billington, who lived there some years, and then moved to Greene. He sold the farm to the Sweet Brothers, who bought it for the lumber. They cut the lumber, the only time I can remember its being done. They bought up both sides of the road, and I am under the impression that they sold it to Edward E. Arnold.

A tradition has come down that four brothers named Wood came from England early in the 1700's, or in the eighteenth century, as we call it,—probably to New York City, as we know it, then New Amsterdam. They all settled in Northern New York State, somewhere near Lake Oswego.

One of them stayed in this country but a short time, returning to England, where he lived and died, without marrying, and without heirs except those on this side of the Big Pond.

*Betsy M.  
Johnson  
Brown*  
*William H.  
Brown*  
*Annie M.  
Brown*  
*Bessie A.  
Brown*

"South Farm"

*Wood Family*

*Thomas Wood*

The other three settled in New York State for a few years, after which one of them, Thomas, came to Rhode Island, to what is now Warwick, probably between what is now Apponaug and Rocky Point, on land then owned by Samuel Arnold, who then owned most of what we call Old Warwick. Not seeming to like it as well as he expected,—or perhaps because of trouble with the owner,—he moved into Coventry, then a new town set off from Warwick. The place where he settled and where he lived and died was near the town line of West Greenwich, about two miles southeast of what is now Summit. If you go down the Harkney Hill Road from Arnold Farms, past the Cooper place at the Four Corners, then keep east by the Caleb Bates place, past the road on the left going through Whaley Hollow, next to the Harkney Hill Road keeping to the right about half a mile, you come to a gate on the right with a road which leads in about a mile to the old Wood place, where my great grandfather Caleb was born and where his large family of boys was raised, and where the older generation lies buried.

*Caleb Wood*

I have never heard much about Caleb's brothers and sisters,—but Caleb married one of the Austin family on Bowen's Hill, and had a large family of boys and one or two girls. There was Thomas, Benjamin, Olney and Gardner, besides my grandfather, Squire Greene Wood.

*Thomas Wood*

Thomas and Benjamin went to New York State near where their grandparents and the first settlers located, and there lived, married and died. I saw Benjamin, who came to Narrowlane when I was six or seven years old, and stayed a week or so. He had several children, one or two of whom I saw when a small boy.

*Caleb Wood*

Caleb, my great grandfather, later sold the old place to Olney Potter, and moved about two miles west on the road from Summit to Sharpstreet, now on the new Victory Highway. He lived in what was later used for a shop and woodhouse, corn crib and so forth. Here he

lived his later years and here he died. My grandfather and grandmother went there and took care of him until his death. My grandfather then sold the place to Job Carpenter, some time about 1866. My grandfather took his mother to his home at Greene, where Sanford Briggs now lives, and I can remember seeing her there when I was a small boy. She was buried on the old place, near the Nichols Groves. Caleb, her husband, was buried in a cemetery about a mile this side of where they lived. It is nearly half a mile from the new road east of the Henry Potter place. I have been through it many times in my younger days, but I did not know then that any of my folks were buried there. The first generation were buried on the old farm, as was the custom then, but Caleb was buried in the new cemetery. My grandfather and his family are all buried at Hopkins Hollow,—with the exception of Jonathan, who is buried in a cemetery a half mile south of Sharpstreet on the new highway,—and my father, who is buried in Tomah, Wisconsin. Lizzie will probably be buried with her husband, James J. Potter, at Oneco.

My grandfather had one sister, Kate, who went *Kate Wood* somewhere in Pennsylvania and married, but little was ever heard from her afterward.

Gardner, the youngest son, lived in Providence *Gardner Wood* nearly all his life, married and had several sons and one daughter,—Isaac Maxon, Edgar, Frank, and Annie. Isaac Maxon lived and died in Providence, on the west side. He had one son, Herbert, who has worked in the City Hall for many years. Edgar lived in East Providence nearly all his life and had three daughters. Frank died last year. Annie never married and died several years ago. They are all gone now, except Herbert and one cousin of his in Boston. *and children* *and grandchildren*

Now to continue the story of the old South Farm. I have given the history of the farm and of the Nichols family, but have not said much about Squire Greene Wood and Amy Nichols Wood, who gave the name to the place.

*Squire Greene  
Wood*

Squire G. Wood was born May 4, 1797, about three miles east of Summit, where he lived, doing work on a farm until he was eighteen years old, when he came to the Narrowlane to help the man, who five years later became his father-in-law, build his new house. It is likely that he saw here for the first time and loved at first sight the woman who for sixty-five years was to be his wife and helpmate in joy and sorrow. He told me once that he told her then that he should wait for her for ten years if necessary, and that he wanted her and her only.

*Amy Nichols  
Wood*

Amy Nichols was born in an old house now gone, nearly half a mile west of where Charles N. Perry now owns, for many years the home of William Bates and afterwards Randall Bates, who are now buried in the cemetery at Hopkins Hollow. She was born November 4, 1805, and lived there until 1815, when they moved to Narrowlane. She was married to Squire G. Wood in 1820, when she was but fifteen years old, and he was twenty-three,—by Rev. James Varnum, who came from the West and was the founder of what we know as the Rice City Christian Church in 1815, and of which both grandfather and grandmother were charter members, as were all of the family, except one who joined elsewhere.

*Squire Greene  
Wood  
and  
Amy Nichols  
Wood*

Soon after his marriage Squire G. Wood went to Manville, near Woonsocket, to work for Thomas Mann, who was then the owner and superintendent of the new mill then being built. He helped to put in the first water wheel to run the small mill as it was then. He was to receive \$1.50 a day, which was called great pay in those days, and it cost him three dollars a week for board. He worked the first year, coming home once in two weeks, walking both ways.

Their first son, Jonathan, was born in 1821, and soon after they moved there and started their first home together,—he working in the mill and she taking boarders to help save his pay toward the place of her

father at Narrowlane which they had bought that year. They stayed there several years. Her father and mother died within a short time of each other, leaving her brother alone. They came back to the old farm, where Kate, the second child, and their first daughter, was born.

They afterward lived for a few years at a time in Providence, where he worked for Thomas J. Hill as a pattern maker in his machine shop. They lived somewhere near Eddy Street in what was then open country, for they kept a cow or two and pastured them near-by on what is now all built up.

They also lived at Natick, where he worked for the older Spragues, who then owned it as a village. They also lived at Anthony for a year or two, where Elizabeth, the youngest, was born, February 9, 1845. They then came back to the farm to live, until they came to Greene in 1858, where they lived until he died in August, 1888, in his ninety-second year, and was buried at Hopkins Hollow. After his death my grandmother lived with Lizzie in the house where Sanford T. Briggs now lives, until the place was sold to Charles E. Capwell, and the new house built where George Ames now lives, until her death, December 5, 1899, in her ninety-fifth year. A few days after, we buried her at Hopkins Hollow, beside him who for sixty-five years she had loved and worked with side by side till he went, and then went on her way alone until she joined him on the other side in heaven, never to be separated any more,—to see also her children who had gone before, and the great number she had known in her long Christian life.

They had lived to see many changes such as steam railroads and the telephone, but what would they say if they could visit us today and see the automobiles, electric lights and radios and the other great improvements that have come since their time? We are getting used to them, but they never dreamed of them. In their day they went afoot or with a horse and wagon,

*Squire Greene  
Wood  
and  
Amy Nichols  
Wood*

sometimes very slowly, and never very fast. Before the railroad in 1858 they had a long day's journey to Providence and back, and usually went one day, stayed over night, and came back the next day. Now you can come from Providence to Greene in an hour or less, stay all day, and get home for supper easily.

*Jonathan  
Wood*

Jonathan Wood, first child of Squire Greene Wood and Amy Nichols Wood, named after his grandfather, Jonathan Nichols, was born at the South Farm in 1821. He spent his boyhood at Manville, R. I., at the old farm, and finally with his grandfather, Caleb Wood, who lived a half mile north of what was called Sharpstreet. He married when quite young Caroline Greene, a daughter of John T. and Zanna Greene, who lived at Sharpstreet for many years. A few years later he started a grocery store in a house on the corner, which he carried on for several years. In 1868 he sold out and went to Hebron, Connecticut, to live on a farm where for about twenty years he made his home. He sold his farm at Hebron and came to Greene to live in the house where Charlie Capwell lived for several years, now owned by a firm named Watson. He stayed here but a few years and then moved to Gilead, about five miles south of Andover, on the railroad between Willimantic and Hartford. This was his home until his death in 1907, aged eighty-six years. His wife died in 1902, and they were both buried in a cemetery just south of Sharpstreet. They had one son and three daughters, all of whom are now living,—three in Providence and one in Saylesville.

*Kate Wood,  
2nd*

Kate Wood, second child of Squire G. and Amey N. Wood, was named after a sister of her father, who went into Pennsylvania, married and was never heard from afterward. Most of her life was spent at Narrowlane, Greene, and a few years in Phenix, where she worked in the mill with her cousin, as was the custom then. She never married, and died on April 11, 1885. She was buried at Hopkins Hollow, April 15, Rev. Caleb

Tillinghast of Providence preaching the funeral sermon according to her wish. She was very badly missed in the old home and neighborhood where she had spent her whole life.

Caleb Thomas Wood, my father, was born on the "South Farm" in 1836. His early life was spent on the farm and he went to school at Hopkins Hollow. Later for several months he went to a school in New York State, and in 1857 he went to what was then Lapham Institute in North Scituate, now run by the Holiness people as a preparatory school for the ministry. While there he met Ellen P. Tillinghast, my mother, and they were married early in 1859 by her father, Rev. J. A. Tillinghast, at Tolland, Connecticut. They settled in New Jersey, just where I have never known, but I came very near being born in New Jersey instead of in Rhode Island. Upon the death of my uncle Squire my mother and father came home to Narrowlane, and my mother never went back. My father came home later and they set up home at the "South Farm." He then took up teaching in the public schools, which became his life work. He taught at Hopkins Hollow and at Hope Valley, and at one or two other places in Rhode Island. In 1868 he went to Indiana, from there to California, and from there to Wisconsin, where he lived, and died in 1898. He lies buried at Tomah, Wisconsin. He died in his sixtieth year of malarial fever.

Huldah Wood, daughter of Squire G. and Amey N. Wood, was named after her grandmother on her father's side. She lived at home during her early life. She also went to Phenix and worked in the mill for a while, after which she came home to the farm. In 1860 she was married to Gustavus A. Wilbur, from Massachusetts, and they set up housekeeping at the new house in Greene now owned by Sanford T. Briggs. They had one son, John A. Wilbur, born May 4, 1862. Three short years after, in August, 1865, she was taken away

*Caleb Thomas  
Wood*

*Ellen P.  
Tillinghast  
Wood*

*Huldah Wood  
Wilbur*

*Gustavus A.  
Wilbur*

*John A.  
Wilbur*

*Annie M.  
Wilbur*

*Squire Greene  
Wood, 2nd*

*Amey  
Elizabeth  
Wood Potter*

*Ellen P.  
Tillinghast  
Wood*

by typhoid fever in her twenty-fifth year,—the second to go out of six children. She lies buried in Hopkins Hollow. Her husband afterward married Mary Burdick of Hope Valley, and had one child, a daughter, Annie M. He died at Sterling, Connecticut, in 1900.

Squire Greene Wood, the third and youngest son of Squire G. and Amey N. Wood, was born at Narrowlane and like the rest went to school at the old schoolhouse and always stayed at home. He was the one whom the father loved best of all, and it was said he was loved by all who knew him. At that time there was a sawmill located just below the bridge near where the cranberry house now stands. Being anxious to work he had gone to work part time at this sawmill. Here he was at work one cold December morning in 1860. He was sent below to clean out the sawdust which had filled up the saw pit. The engine which ran the mill stood near by, and in some way his clothing caught in the driving wheel and he was instantly killed. Word was sent to the home of what had happened, and he was carried home to his stricken father and mother. Neither ever got over it entirely. He was the first of the family to be buried in the new cemetery at Hopkins Hollow.

Amey Elizabeth Wood, the last child of Squire G. and Amey N. Wood, was born at Anthony, February 9, 1845. Her life was spent at the "South Farm" and Greene, and she followed school teaching, having a record of nearly fifty terms in Coventry and West Greenwich. She was married to James J. Potter in 1896, and upon his death several years later sold the home to George Ames and went to Providence, where she now has her home with John A. Wilbur in South Providence.

I have known them all but Squire and Huldah, whose funeral I can just remember in 1865.

Ellen P. Tillinghast Wood, my mother, was the daughter of Rev. Joseph A. Tillinghast and Lavira

Peckham Tillinghast. Her father was born in Moosup and her mother was born on Sterling Hill, a daughter of Rev. Peleg Peckham, for forty years pastor of Sterling Hill Baptist Church. My grandfather was married to my grandmother in 1836, and my mother was born on Sterling Hill, July 16, 1838. Soon after, her father was called to be pastor of the Baptist Church at Allenton, Rhode Island, about two miles south of Wickford on the Post Road. My mother stayed there during her childhood, and at the age of twelve years joined the Baptist Church, being baptized and received by her father into the church, with several others. When she was fourteen her father received a call to a Baptist Church in Uxbridge, Massachusetts, where he stayed for two years. During this time my mother attended the Uxbridge Academy, or what we would now call a senior high school. I have seen the church, and the academy building, which is now used for other purposes. I have also seen the parsonage where they lived. They then returned to Allenton, Rhode Island, where for two terms she taught school at what is now called Lafayette, near Wickford Junction, on the main line of the New Haven Railroad. After this she went to North Scituate with the idea of fitting herself for a teacher in the public schools, but she met my father and that changed all her life and her plans for the future. Soon after, her father received a call to Tolland, Connecticut, and decided to go, so she went there for a short time with them. Early in 1859 my father and mother were married in Tolland by her father, and soon after they went to New Jersey and stayed until the death of my uncle in 1860, when my mother came to the farm of her father-in-law, there to stay for over eleven years. There we three children were born, and there she had some joyful times and much more of sorrow and hard work. She lost her father in August, 1859, and her mother moved back to Allenton to live. I can remember going down there with my father and

*Ellen P.  
Tillinghast  
Wood*

*Ellen P.  
Tillinghast  
Wood*

mother once or twice while she lived there, and I think she came once or twice, but my mother seldom saw her mother, who died in August, 1868, I believe. We went and stayed for a few weeks while my mother fixed up her mother's affairs. We then came back to the farm, my mother bringing her brother Joseph with her, where he was to make his home for eleven years.

During most of my early life we made the ell part of the house our kitchen, and used the big kitchen for a bedroom, and the east room for a sitting room in front. Afterward my grandfather, grandmother and Lizzie came over to live, and they took the ell and east room and dark bedroom. Also Lizzie had a room upstairs. My grandfather brought no stove with him, but Granny cooked by a fireplace altogether, and she certainly knew how to cook with one. Such Johnny cakes and doughnuts and fried apple pies as she cooked,—and pan cakes and boiled dinners! They made their own butter and cheese, and it was good wholesome living. They stayed during the summer of 1867 and grandfather did the planting and haying that year. We lived in the big kitchen and west rooms. After they came back to Greene we moved into the ell and used all of the rooms downstairs. We stayed there until the fall of 1871, when we moved to Liberty, about a mile beyond the Plain Meeting House, going toward Escoheag. They had some trouble in the district and it was decided to have two schools in the district. A trustee was elected, and two rooms in the house owned by Burrill Franklin were fitted up for school purposes. For five months the school was so held, my mother being the teacher. In the spring we moved back to the "South Farm," and in two weeks' time the place was sold to the Waite Brothers and we moved down to the house, near the cranberry house. After living there for about two weeks we moved again, this time to Sharpstreet, where my mother had been engaged to teach the school for the spring and fall terms, they expecting to hire a man

to teach the winter school,—but my mother taught all the terms, both winter and summer, for two years. We then moved about two miles farther east, near Fries Pond, where we stayed five years. My mother taught two years in that district, and then took sawmill boarders for two years, and then taught one winter at the new schoolhouse at the Plain Meeting House,—dividing the family, she and my sister being together, and her brother and I keeping house at home.

*Ellen P.  
Tillinghast  
Wood  
Fryes Pond*

We were packed up to move April 1, 1879, but in the last week in March a bad snow came on and so we were a week late in getting away, but we finally got started and moved to Phenix in the Pawtuxet Valley. Phenix then was the great place in the valley, on the north stream. Arctic Centre was then a very small place, only a few houses and no stores, all of the dry goods and grocery stores being at Phenix. We moved into what was once a Baptist Church, but which had been made over into tenements, and ours was on the ground floor. We lived there about three months, and then moved two houses north into the lower tenement of a house owned by Thomas D. Parker, where we lived nearly four years. We then moved into a tenement over the Railroad Station owned by Isaac Mumford, where we lived two years. The first year my mother worked for a lady named Briggs, dressmaking, in 1880.

*Phenix*

She went to teaching school again in the Phenix Public School. At that time there were three departments in three separate rooms. First, the primary department, taught then and for many years after by Minnie E. Snow. Second, the intermediate department, as it was then called, which had been taught for a year or two by a sister of the primary teacher, Miss Sophie Snow, who left the school to be married to Walter Knight of Auburn, where they lived for many years. I may say in passing that Phenix still had the old country way of having an annual school meeting where a trustee was elected for one year and he hired the teachers. So my

*Phenix Public  
School*

*Ellen P.  
Tillinghast  
Wood*

mother applied for the place and was hired. We had a superintendent of schools, but all he did was to visit the school once or twice a year, give a certificate to the teachers good for a year, his term of office. In this school my mother taught for five years, from 1880 to 1885. Several hundred scholars passed through under her care and teaching, and many of them made good men, and men who have made a mark for themselves. Many of the girls later in life married and some became school teachers. All spoke well of my mother and of her teaching during the five years she was there, but she never liked teaching and as she was becoming tired of it she made plans to move again, this time back to Greene, where she had made arrangements to live on the place near the schoolhouse then owned by my grandfather, where we could have a cow and hens and raise a garden and where she would be near those whom she loved and who loved her, but how soon our best hopes are blasted and our plans changed. How little she dreamed that she was never to see any of them again in this world, but so it was. Her winter term closed in March, the last week of the month, and so during the month she had been packing up her goods to move as early as possible in April, so as to get settled up here, and then she would teach the spring term, spend the summer up here, then teach the fall term, and then quit as she hoped, forever. A few days after her school closed she was taken sick with lung fever, and we had Dr. Smith, of Washington, our family doctor, and he said she would come out all right if she kept her bed and rested, but not to try to do anything for a week anyway. But it was not her nature to be quiet and rest. She wanted to be stirring. We all cautioned her not to take any chances, as I knew that all of her own people had died of typhoid fever and I was afraid she might overdo, and I knew if that came upon her she would never be able to stand it, which was just what happened. She felt so much

*Ellen P.  
Tillinghast  
Wood*

better one morning she got up and dressed and sat in the kitchen working on her returns to the superintendent which had to be in before she could draw her term's pay. I tried to persuade her to go back to bed and finally I went over to the village on an errand. When I came back she had collapsed on the floor and was unconscious. I went for the doctor again and when he came he gave us very small hope, said he was afraid typhoid had already set in, and that all we could do was to keep her comfortable, which we tried to do. Those were trying days for us all. I couldn't believe that she couldn't get well. I needed her so much, and it was the first time in my life when anyone in our family was so very sick. She had been sick before and had got well, and oh, how I prayed that she might live. But she was deranged most of the time. At times she knew us and then again she would want to go home. Just at sunrise, April 9, 1885, she went home to meet father and mother and many who had gone before. The funeral was held Saturday morning at 8:30, her own pastor conducting the service. The Baptist and Methodist pastors were also present. The school children came in a body to see her and brought flowers with them. At 9:30 we started for Greene and Hopkins Hollow where the second service was held, attended by her pastor and Rev. Benjamin Moon of Washington, who had known her for many years. She lies buried in our lot there, and how we have missed her in the years that have come and gone. She was a good mother, anxious to help all to be better in this world, and to fit them for a better world beyond where there is no sorrow, nor crying, for their tears are all wiped away. So went as good a woman as ever lived, true to her family, true to her Maker, and true to her best ideal of life. This is a very poor sketch of one who did so much for me, but if I were to write for days I could not tell all she was to those whom she loved dearer than her own life. I had her only twenty-four short years,

*Ellen P.  
Tillinghast  
Wood*

but her influence on those years was enough to keep me from going into many wrong ways I might have gone but for her teachings. She was a true Christian, not one who said much in public, but one who lived it at home.

*Squire G.  
Wood, 3rd*

I was born at the "South Farm," March 11, 1861. They tell me it was a bitterly cold night and that my grandfather drove over from here and took Granny and Lizzie with him. My father took the horse and wagon and drove to Daniel Tillinghast's place where Laura Tillinghast now lives, but in the old house which was burned down some years ago. Mrs. Tillinghast came, and Emeline, now Mrs. Ripley, came with her, so there are two still living who were there when I came into this world. They went for Dr. Hutchinson at Rice City, but all was over when he got there. Of course the first three or four years I cannot remember much about. I can remember when President Lincoln was shot, for my grandfather came over with the news, and my father came over here with him to hear more about it if he could, and he came home with the news that he was dead and when the funeral was to be.

As I was the son of two school teachers of course I was taught to read very early, and when I was five could read any common reading. I have a book given me by my father when I was six years old, called *The Bay Slaver*, a tale of African bandits, which I read through then and many times since. It seems as if all school teachers have some particular studies which they would rather teach than anything else. My father's were spelling and arithmetic, and these he drilled me in more than anything else. Spelling always came easy to me, so that later on I rarely looked a spelling lesson over unless there were new words which I had not seen before, and it has never troubled me at all to write for hours without thinking how the words are to be spelled. Arithmetic came somewhat harder. People have wondered how I could remember dates and

names so easily. My father had a good memory for those things and he insisted they were there because he had trained his memory to keep these dates and names there until he wanted to use them. Addition and subtraction were quite easy, but when we struck the multiplication tables that was different altogether. Most scholars learn the tables from one to twelve and can rarely say them offhand without stopping to figure them up before they answer,—but my father made me learn tables from one to twenty-five, so I could say them backward or forward or skip about to any number he pleased, and it was some job for a six year old boy, and many a hard hour I put in before I had it to suit him. When we think of 625 different amounts to be remembered so that you can say the correct amount without stopping to figure,—it took some study and work,—and I think he did it more to show me off before company than anything else, because he did that several times,—but it did certainly help me to remember other things better afterward, although I would never make anyone as young as that do it.

*Squire G.  
Wood, 3rd*

I went to school in the old schoolhouse one winter when my father taught, except in bad weather. The rest I learned at home for the first ten and a half years, with my mother as teacher. We had some lessons each day, some work and some play. When I lived there we had a good barn and shed, a good corn crib, a smoke house for smoking hams,—and all of the north side between the east fence and the west fence clear down the river was mowing land. We had a good garden there each year, and one year my grandfather planted an acre and a half of potatoes east of the house. We kept two cows and old Beauty, the horse who was born the same spring I was and lived to be over thirty years old. When they moved back to Greene they took one cow and left one, so we had milk that winter. We had a strawberry bed across the road, west of the barn, but wild strawberries were very plentiful in the south lot

*Squire G.  
Wood, 3rd*

and down west of the second brook. After this came the huckleberries, which we used to pick to eat and also to sell at the store to trade for groceries and other things which were needed. I have picked them and sold them for five cents a quart. They would only take black ones then, as swamp berries were not thought fit to eat. Now they want nothing else, and the low black ones are not picked at all. In the fall we had the fun of picking cranberries for three or four weeks, usually beginning the last week in August, and sometimes it would be October before we finished. Some job to work on your knees in wet or dry for two cents a quart from seven until five each day with a few minutes at noon for dinner. I did it for three or four seasons, as we all did, to help Mother to get by with us the next winter. We then could set snares and catch partridges and rabbits. The rabbits we ate, and the birds we used to sell for about fifty cents a piece on the train at Greene. How little I knew of the world then! A trip to Greene was an event to be talked about for some time, and Summit and Oneco I only knew by name, and they seemed a good way off from my old home, and then I never dreamed I should ever see any big towns or cities, much less that I should live in them. Narrow-lane and Greene was my world then, small, but real to me. Since then I have seen quite a large part of this country and have lived in several cities and towns and villages, but I have never been much happier than I was over at the "South Farm" from 1861 to October, 1871, when I left it, never to go back to stay. To be sure, we had some sickness. One winter we all had whooping cough and the next winter I had rheumatism all winter besides colds and so forth, but still we enjoyed living at the old farm. Our nearest neighbor was three quarters of a mile east, a mile or more south and west, and a mile and a half on the north,—no one living at the cranberry house after Henry Dixon went away. Only once in a while would a team go by, and then we

would wonder who it was, and where he was going. We had few callers except the Waite Brothers who came too often looking for news.

*Squire G.  
Wood, 3rd*

After about three weeks in the house where John Burke and Bud Gorsline lived afterward, in April, 1872, we moved three miles east to Sharpstreet Corners in West Greenwich, there to start on seven years of the happiest part of my life. At that time there were many boys and girls about my age in a radius of two miles, and most of them went to the school during the two years I lived there, and many friendships were started then which have been broken by death or by selling out and going elsewhere. Also during the years 1872 and 1873 I received most of my schooling from the text books. During those years I learned about arithmetic, both mental and the higher books, also algebra, grammar, geography and all the other studies usually taught in the public school. United States History being one of the studies my mother liked to teach, we were drilled in that quite thoroughly, which was a great help in our reading in later years. Sharpstreet and its surrounding neighborhood was really a Christian community. The church located about a mile east of Sharpstreet on the road to Weaver Hill had services every Sunday, with a Sunday school in the forenoon at 10:30 A. M., during the summer, but preaching at 12 noon all the year round by different preachers. Rev. Benedict Johnson had been their pastor for several years but had died the year before I went to live there. Rev. Charles Shippee was the pastor when I first began going there. He came to us once a month on the second Sunday of the month. Other preachers were Rev. Caleb Greene, who lived just south of Sharpstreet on a farm,—Rev. Silas Matteson, who lived where Fred Arnold afterward lived and where Louis Knox now owns, was also our preacher once a month. Rev. Benjamin Moon, who lived at Washington, a mill owner, and considered well off for

*Sharpstreet  
Corners*

*Sharpstreet*

*Squire G.  
Wood, 3rd*

those days, came to us on the third Sunday for many years. He was a good man and a good preacher, although pretty lengthy sometimes. The second year I lived there Rev. Charles Shippee resigned, and Rev. William Crooker of Providence became our pastor, to remain so as long as I lived there and for several years after. In the fall of 1873 a great revival came to that community and some twenty or more joined the church that winter, and this continued for several years until a large part of the community were members of the church. During the revival I have spoken of I went forward on the last night of 1873 at a watch night service, and that night was the starting point of my life as a Christian. I wanted very much to join the church at that time, but my mother was opposed to it on account of my age, so I had to wait two years before I could join the best organization in this world. The church was a Free Baptist Church, and as all of my people on both sides were Baptists I thought it was the only church to join, but how much I have learned since. I have found out long since that no one church has all the good things, but that all of the churches are simply different roads and ways to go toward the Great City of Heavenly Rest, each striving in his own way to reach that place where there will be only one requirement, and that one, have you tried to live a Christian life while here on earth. We had a very happy time with these good people in West Greenwich. I joined the church on the second Sunday in December, 1875, with three others,—Samuel D. Peckham, Arthur B. Dexter, Joseph A. Tillinghast were the others who that day promised to be true to the Church, and that day I first partook of the Lord's Supper, or of communion, as most of the churches have named it.

*Fryes District*

In 1875, in the month of April, we moved to Fryes District, about two miles farther southeast on a cross road to Nooseneck by way of what was then known as Robin Hollow, where a small mill was located at the

western side of Nooseneck Hill. It is now gone, having burned down in the early part of the 80's in the last century. At Fryes Pond we had a very pretty home and a chance to do some real farming for ourselves, for we had a cow, some pigs, hens and so forth and plenty of land to take care of, so we had plenty of all kinds of garden stuff,—and as our wood cost us nothing but the trouble to cut it we got along very fine and for five years we hardly knew anything about trouble. Our neighbors were all good Christian people and we had five very pleasant years among them. The church and the community gatherings were our world. Our weekly Journal gave us the news of the outside world, and so we lived, at peace with our neighbors and trying to serve the Lord to the best of our ability. The first year I went to school there, and the next spring went to work for Charles Capwell on his farm. He owned our place and also a large farm on the main road between Sharpstreet and Weaver Hill. Most of the next four years I worked through the spring, summer and fall, using the winter for studying and reading, besides doing what work needed to be done at home. All the outside reading we had was from our small library at the Sunday school, to which a few new books were added each year, part of the collections being used for that purpose. We had quite a library at home which came from my grandfather on my mother's side, but they were mostly religious works such as commentaries on different parts of the Bible, and some biographies of missionaries and so forth. Some of these I read through several times, and some of them I would have liked to have kept for my own, as they are now out of print and cannot be had at any price. And so I lived, happy and contented, until March, 1879, when we decided to make a change to where I could have a chance at some higher schooling to fit me for some life work. My mother's great desire for me was to see me become a preacher of the Gospel as her father had been,

*Squire G.  
Wood, 3rd*

*Squire G.  
Wood, 3rd*

but I had up to that time felt no especial call to the greatest work on earth and the most responsible, and I have never felt this call. If I had, I should have answered the call and fitted myself as best I could for that kind of work. I believe a man called to that high work needs a special training such as was not to be had then without great expense both as to time and money, neither of which we could afford at that time.

*Phenix*

About the 10th of April, 1879, we arrived in Phenix, which was to be my home for six very pleasant years. We moved into what was formerly the Baptist Church, before the new one was built, on this side of the river. Soon after we got settled I began going to school at the Phenix School in what was then called the grammar grade, but it was really more than that, as it carried many studies now taught in the high school. At that time very few were sent to the High School, as most of those who graduated had to go to work. A few took a short course in the State Normal School and began teaching. I went through the spring and fall terms,—and then, an uncle of my mother's by marriage, who was a partner in the largest grocery store in the place, offered me a place in the store. At that time all concerned had to work long hours in any of the stores, and Hoxie's store was in line with the rest of them. We went to work at 5:30 in the morning, went to breakfast at 6:30 for half an hour, then worked until 12:30 for dinner, until 6:30 for supper, and then until 9 P. M. six days a week. We then had no half holidays off, and no evenings except on holidays such as Decoration Day, Fourth of July, and so forth, when we worked until about 10 A. M. I worked in the store at Phenix about a year, and then went to Arkwright, where they had a store with only two of us to do the work, but the hours were somewhat shorter,—from 7 A. M. to 8 P. M., —but I had to walk a mile and back and carry dinner and supper, so for a year I saw my home folks very little except Sundays and legal holidays. At the end of

*Arkwright*

the year, as there were to be some changes in the help at the big store and a vacancy at Lippitt Store I asked to be changed to that store, so that I could be nearer home and could have my meals at home. They agreed to the change, so I went to Lippitt, but did not stay there very long. For some time I had been thinking of going into business for myself. There was a small store close to where I lived which ran a stock of cigars, tobacco, candy and so forth, and the man who owned it wanted to sell out and move to Moosup, Connecticut, to go into the grocery business for himself. So I bought him out and ran the store for a year and a half and then sold out. The Mill Company owned the building and they had decided to turn the store into a tenement, which they did, and it is still there today. I passed it a few weeks ago, and the sight brought memories of those days, for it was while running this store that I became of legal age and cast my first vote as a Republican. Governor Van Zandt of Newport was elected that spring, for the State election came on the first Wednesday in April in those days. We also elected a Senator and a Representative to our General Assembly. I voted in Warwick for three years from 1882 to 1885. Henry L. Greene of the Clyde Print Works was elected Senator. I have forgotten who was the candidate for Representative, but I think he was from Phenix, but perhaps from down Apponaug way, as Warwick was a very large town then, with four or five voting districts. In 1884 I voted for my first President, J. G. Blaine, and got trimmed, as Grover Cleveland won out by New York State going Democratic by some 1,200 votes.

After selling out my store I went to work for James Ward, a dealer in paints, wall paper and all painters' supplies. At that time he was the only dealer in supplies of this kind, so he had a very large trade in the Valley. He also did house painting, and while I was with him, at times he had twenty men at work for him in his shop and on outside work. It was while I was

*Squire G.  
Wood, 3rd  
Lippitt*

*Elections*

*James Ward*

*Squire G.  
Wood, 3rd*

*Edward E.  
Arnold*

with Mr. Ward that I met Mr. Edward E. Arnold, who at that time was bookkeeper for Mason, Chapin & Company and who had charge of the shipping of all goods from there. They had at that time a drummer by the name of Byron Joslin, a fine young man who came to see us every week to take orders for such goods as we needed, for at that time Mason, Chapin & Company carried about everything in that line. So we used to buy a good deal from them. In those days everything was bought on credit, with plenty of time to pay. So we had run up a bill of some five or six hundred dollars, and having completed one or two large jobs Mr. Ward wanted me to take it into Mason, Chapin & Company and pay up what we owed and put in an order for more stock which we would need. This seemed a very large sum for me to handle all alone, and as I had never been in there I hardly knew just what to do, but I went to the store in Providence, and they showed me to Mr. Arnold's office and told him who I was and where from, and Mr. Arnold told me who he was and asked what I wanted. He was somewhat surprised when I took out my roll of money and handed it over and asked him to give us credit for it. "Well," he said, "they must know you are all right to trust you with that amount and I'll give you credit, and you can order what you want and all you want." We have quite a chat about my folks, and he told me then he hoped some day to come back to the old farm, which he did a few years after. I went in several times afterward, but I did not see much more of him until I came up here to live, and he also began to come back to the farm for the summer months.

I had to leave there on account of my health, as the doctors said leave, and so of course I left.

I then began my first railroading, as a spare agent on the Pawtuxet Valley Branch, working for those who wanted a vacation, and this was work I liked. While it was long hours, yet I had all my evenings and Sun-

days to myself. The pay was not large those days, but it was sure to come every month, so we enjoyed the work very much,—but the folks had decided to move to Greene, so I expected to go to farming once more. We did come, but our best friend was leaving us. We came up into the house near the camp ground, now owned by a firm, and lived there from the last of April until about the middle of October of 1885. We then decided to store our goods in the old schoolhouse at Hopkins Hollow, and go to Providence to work. I went to Washington for a few weeks, on a farm this side of the village, and then went to the city about the first of the new year. I went to work for Andrews & Son on Dyer Street, who then carried on a wholesale fruit store.

*Squire G.  
Wood, 3rd*













